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International Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper ** Paris, Wednesday, April 24, 1996 No. 35,194

Fire Raises New Fear Of Chernobyl Danger

Airborne Radioactivity Increases As '86 Disaster Anniversary Nears

By James Rupert
Washington Post Service

KIEV — A grass and forest fire ed in the irradiated lands near Chernobyl nuclear power plant day, throwing up smoke that ened to spread radioactive con- ation to populated areas.

fire started about noon in and at the village of Tolstiy 4 kilometers (14 miles) west of hernobyl plant, and raised air- radiation levels in the imme- vicinity, according to fire fight- here quoted by the Reuters news cy. The village lies within a ed, depopulated zone that tches in a 30-kilometer radius und the plant.

There was no immediate evidence t radiation had drifted beyond the zone, and fire fighters were continuing to battle the blaze Tuesday evening to prevent that.

Mykola Urupa, an administrator for the Tolstiy Lis district, said by telephone Tuesday evening that the fire had been contained. A fire fighter at the fire station in the town of Chernobyl said shortly afterward that "everyone is still working hard."

"It's not finished yet," he added.

The fire underscored the continuing problems of containing radiation left over from the 1986 explosion that destroyed Chernobyl's reactor No. 4. That accident spewed tons of radioactive dust into the air, most of which settled into the grasslands, forests and rivers surrounding the plant.

Anything that moves those particles risks spreading contamination. Besides fires, a prime worry is flooding of local rivers onto contaminated soil, whose radioactivity would then be washed down the Dnieper River, which supplies drinking water to much of Ukraine. Earlier this month, Ukrainian officials used helicopters to monitor the Pripyat River, adjacent to the Chernobyl plant, which came close to flooding amid heavy melting of snows.

By Tuesday evening, the fire had burned about 100 hectares (250 acres) of grassland, plus some additional woodland, according to a fire official cited by the Interfax-Ukraine news agency.

Officials said no deaths had been recorded in the fire.

The only civilians known to be immediately endangered by the fire were 200 to 300 former residents of Tolstiy Lis, who were making an annual pilgrimage to their family gravesites. Officials in the exclusion zone said the visitors had been evacuated in buses.

Although the villages in the so-called exclusion zone were evacuated in 1986, several hundred people, mostly elderly, have moved back and live virtually as hermits in their old homes, with the toleration of authorities there.

It was not known whether any of them were threatened by the fire.

The fire, about 100 kilometers northwest of Kiev, raised immediate concerns in this city of about 2 million. But radiation measurements in the center of town showed the presence only of normal background levels of radiation late Tuesday.

The Associated Press

Warren M. Christopher talking with the Syrian foreign minister, Farouk Shara, after the U.S. secretary of state arrived in Damascus on Tuesday.

Assad Turns Back On Christopher Visit

Trip to Beirut Then Put Off As Unsafe

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — President Hafez Assad of Syria canceled a meeting Tuesday afternoon with U.S. Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher, who had flown to Damascus especially to meet him, on the grounds that the Americans had arrived 20 minutes later than expected and he had a state dinner planned for the Pakistani prime minister, U.S. officials said.

Mr. Christopher then planned to use his suddenly available time to visit Beirut and meet with Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. But Mr. Christopher canceled his plans for Beirut five minutes before departure when General George A. Joulwan, the commander of American forces in Europe, advised him strongly on the telephone that the security situation had changed and that he should not go.

Mr. Assad has kept Mr. Christopher waiting twice before on this four-day shuttle mission, leading to suggestions that the Syrian president has been snubbing Mr. Christopher and insulting the United States in a manner designed to deliver diplomatic messages. On Saturday and on Monday, Mr. Christopher was put on hold while Mr. Assad made time to speak with the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeni M. Primakov, who concluded his own shuttling Monday and went back to Moscow.

At that time, American officials agreed that Mr. Assad was overscheduled, with seven foreign ministers in Damascus at one time, but that he was also trying to let Washington know that he would not be hurried, and that Mr. Christopher had an important though not unique demand on his time.

A frustrated Mr. Christopher returned Tuesday night to Jerusalem, where he had met Prime Minister Shimon Peres for two sessions earlier Tuesday, refining a single-page American draft document to stop the rocketing and shelling in southern Lebanon and northern Israel with an enduring cease-fire. Mr. Christopher now plans to return to Damascus to meet Mr. Assad on Wednesday morning.

While this diplomatic dance took up the fourth day of Mr. Christopher's shuttle effort, the fighting that he came here to stop continued for a 13th day. But by now the draft has gone through two complete reviews by both the Israelis and the Syrians, who are about to have their third run-through, officials said. And Israeli officials spoke optimistically about an agreement perhaps on Thursday, although senior U.S. officials cautioned that sensitive issues remained about military conduct in the Israeli security zone in southern Lebanon. Still, Mr. Christopher has now made nearly 20 trips to Damascus in his period as secretary of state and only one trip to China, leading some to suggest he has been misusing his time. A senior American official Tuesday night ac-

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Israelis Turn Coast Road Into Gunboat Firing Range

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

WADI ZAIN, Lebanon — Staring grimly at the road, clutching the steering wheel for dear life, the drivers gun their engines and disappear around the bend, steeling themselves for the whistle and blast of Israeli cannon shells.

Most of them make it: a few do not. But here at the last safe haven on the main coastal highway 30 kilometers (18 miles) south of Beirut, the constant threat of shelling from Israeli gunboats in the Mediterranean has reduced traffic to a trickle, interfering with humanitarian relief convoys and complicating the lives of tens of thousands of Lebanese civilians.

The disruption is a reminder that as U.S. Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher shuttles between Jerusalem and Damascus in an effort to resolve the Lebanon crisis, Israel's two-week-old military offensive against Shiite Muslim guerrillas operating from the orange groves and partly abandoned villages of southern Lebanon continues to paralyze the country.

"I've been trying to go every day, but I can't cross," said Hussein Halaby, 29, an agent for the American Life Insurance Co. in Beirut. He said he was trying to deliver food and medical supplies to his mother, who has stayed in her village in defiance of Israeli warnings to the residents of southern Lebanon to flee their homes.

Israel says it has cut the road to prevent people from returning to the south and to stem the flow of weapons to Hezbollah.

But motorists and others interviewed here expressed skepticism that Hezbollah fighters would transport their weapons by such an exposed route, given the abundance of back roads and trails winding through the mountains.

After air strikes last week on electrical substations knocked out power to Beirut, Israel's decision to sever the coastal road is yet another blow to an economy still struggling to overcome the legacy of civil war. A potholed, somewhat meandering route flanked by mountains and sea, the road links Beirut with the major southern cities of Sidon and Tyre.

As motorists lined up to make their hell-for-leather dash to Sidon, a few kilometers down the road, the squat, gray shape of an Israeli gunboat shimmered in the distance, pounding the road with cannon shells at intervals of several minutes. Most of those trying to

See LEBANON, Page 7

Italians Have Discovered the Two-Party System

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Service

ROME — Can it be? Is Italy becoming a normal country, politically?

To pose such a question after the complex and sometimes bitter electoral campaign just concluded might seem like wandering down one of Rome's automobile-choked streets and believing that an end to double parking is near. Yet, for all the uncertainties that lie along Italy's political road map, Sunday's national election was clearly a step toward light. Italy is approaching something that approximates a two-party system. Everyone agrees that changes are needed

NEWS ANALYSIS

in the way Italians vote to move the process along, but on Sunday the voters themselves showed the way.

They chose between two contrasting personalities who ran for prime minister: the flamboyant Silvio Berlusconi, head of the rightist Freedom Alliance, and the low-key Romano Prodi, leader of the center-left Olive Tree alliance.

They gave Mr. Prodi a majority in Parliament and a chance to take power without first having to make backroom deals.

Such wheeling and dealing was the way Italian politics used to work. Italians refer to the old system as *partitocrazia*. Fractious parties, elected through a system that gave even microscopic parties seats in Par-

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The Vatican reacts to the left's victory. Page 5.

Reuters

CHECHEN LEADER REPORTED DEAD — Dzhokar Dudayev, the Chechen rebel leader, was reported Tuesday to have been killed. Page 7.

AGENDA

Subway Gunman Fined $43 Million

NEW YORK (AP) — A Bronx jury on Tuesday ordered Bernhard H. Goetz to pay $43 million to a young black man who was left paralyzed after Mr. Goetz shot him in a subway car in 1984.

A jury of four blacks and two Hispanics said that Mr. Goetz acted recklessly and without justification in shooting Darrell Cabey. It awarded Mr. Cabey $18 million for pain and suffering and $25 million in punitive damages. The chances of Mr. Cabey's ever collecting the money are slight. Mr. Goetz's legal bills have left the self-employed electronics expert with little money. The verdict came nine years after a criminal trial in which a mostly white jury acquitted him of attempted murder and convicted him on a weapons charge.

Dow Jones	Trib Index
Up 23.85 5588.59	Up 0.10% 136.66

The Dollar

New York.	Tues. close	previous close
DM	1.522	1.517
Pound	1.5165	1.5125
Yen	106.705	108.60
FF	5.141	5.137

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Yeltsin's Visit to China: Asians Cast a Wary Eye

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — While Asian countries regard reconciliation between China and Russia as an immediate plus for regional stability, they also worry that Russian arms and friendship might embolden Beijing to use force to pursue its territorial claims to Taiwan and other parts of Asia.

As President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia prepared to start a visit to China on Wednesday, officials and analysts in the region said that cooperative relations between Beijing and Moscow had both positive and negative potential.

They said that if Mr. Yeltsin lost the presidential elections in June to the

NEWS ANALYSIS

Communists, ties with Beijing could become closer as Russia adopted methods China has used to stimulate economic growth while retaining the Communist Party in power.

"What we have here is the lesser of two evils," an Asian defense official said Tuesday. "We have to balance regional stability against the risk that Russian arms and friendship will give China a freer hand to bully Taiwan and other neighbors and defy the United States."

China has territorial disputes with many of its neighbors in East Asia and alarmed them by staging war games off Taiwan, which it regards as a rebel province, before Taiwanese voted in their first direct presidential elections last month.

In response, the United States sent a powerful naval force, including two aircraft carriers, to the area. Then, last week, the United States and Japan announced new measures to strengthen their security alliance, citing the need to maintain regional peace and stability.

Russia is helping upgrade China's armed forces and extend their range by selling advanced weapons, including Su-27 jet fighters and Kilo class submarines. It also agreed recently to license production of the Su-27, and possibly other Russian equipment, in China.

The deals, reportedly worth more than $5 billion so far, are helping to sustain Russia's defense industries after a sharp fall in sales to the Russian military in the last few years. Further cooperation with China is expected to be discussed during Mr. Yeltsin's visit.

Even though they are concerned about weapons sales and the transfer of advanced military technology by Russia to China, most Asian nations fear the alternative of bad relations between Moscow and Beijing even more.

Cold War rivalry between the Soviet Union and China that lasted more than two decades almost erupted into war in 1969 after clashes on their frontier.

"If Russia fails in its political and economic reforms, it could re-emerge onto the world stage seeking to recover its lost status and influence," said Paul

See YELTSIN, Page 7

Employee Surveys Put Boorish Bosses on Notice

By Erik Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Have you been asked lately about your job, your feelings toward your boss or the direction your company has taken? If not, don't despair. Your time is coming. Around the world, companies are embracing employee polls as the latest must-have tool for good managers.

"We are making our employee satisfaction index part of our monthly reporting structure right along with things like margins," said Waldemar Schmidt, chief executive of ISS International Service System, the world's largest cleaning company.

The Copenhagen-based ISS, which started surveying its employees in Scandinavia two years ago and credits the practice with helping to raise productivity, plans to expand its monthly polls worldwide.

The keen interest companies have suddenly taken in the views of their staffs comes at a curious time. It is a time when demands for ever greater employee commitment clash with ever-shrinking willingness by employers to offer regular raises and even job stability.

"Job security is in free fall right across Europe," said Roger Maitland, managing director of International Survey Research, Europe's largest employee survey firm.

Mr. Maitland, who says his business has "taken off," harbors no illusions about the motivations of some of his clients. "This is not a reflection of employers' being nice," he said. "In fact, in some instances it is an exercise in finding out just how horrid managers can be to people."

Using surveys to test employee tolerances has raised fears of bosses resorting to Orwellian monitorings and manipulations of their underlings. Add the new technology and the potential increases exponentially.

The 700 European employees of the public relations firm of Burson-Marsteller/Europe are polled monthly via the company's in-house computer system. Responses flow in via e-mail. Full survey results — typically from a surprising 85 percent of employees — materialize within 48 hours, replete with breakdowns by division, country and seniority level.

Ferdinand de Bakker, Burson Europe's chief executive, and many others dismiss the idea of Big Brother. They see their surveys as nothing less than a new means for a democratization of the workplace. To use the jargon of the moment, they see the exercise as part of an "empowerment" of the workforce, a means by which employees can exert influence over their own professional destinies and those of their firms.

Typically, pollsters will ask employees for their views on everything from their salaries to the performance of their bosses. The BBC, for instance, is pre-

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Newsstand Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	LL 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	14 Dh
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Rials
Egypt	£E 5	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R.
Gabon	1100 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Greece	350 Dr.	Spain	225 PTAS
Italy	2,800 Lire	Tunisia	1,250 Din
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$1.20

Anger at U.S. / **Patriotism on the Rise**

Chinese Students Waving the Flag

By Patrick E. Tyler
New York Times Service

NANJING, China — His manner was friendly, but his words had a hard, metallic edge to them. "Pardon me for speaking so bluntly," said Liu Junhai, a junior at Nanjing University, pausing on a walk across the leafy campus to respond to a visitor's questions about student attitudes.

"I don't consider that the United States is very friendly toward China," he said. "After all, you have just sent two aircraft carriers to within a few hundred miles of the Chinese coast and even closer to Taiwan."

Mr. Liu, 22, is a business major, and he seemed all business as he explained himself in a way that reflected the strong patriotism — some call it nationalism — of Chinese students today.

"We have received a lot of propaganda from the central government that Taiwan is part of China and the United States should not interfere in China's internal affairs," he said. "So it seems to me the role the United States is playing as a world cop is comical. It is none of your business, so why are you putting your foot in it?"

Again apologizing for the unfriendly tone of his remarks, Mr. Liu added: "We have a saying in Chinese for something that seems out of place: It is like the dog chasing the mouse."

His remarks and those of a number of his classmates sampled on an afternoon walk around one of China's most prestigious centers of higher learning suggested that just as Americans are more inclined these days to think the worst about Chinese intentions toward Taiwan or in confrontations on trade and human rights, the Chinese seem similarly inclined to think the worst of U.S. intentions.

"I don't think the United States wants to see another Soviet Union in the world, in other words, another superpower or another country on its same level," said Huang Jie, a 20-year-old German major.

Hers was a grievance that many Chinese voice today, a sense that behind Washington's threats to impose trade sanctions on China for copyright piracy, behind its pressure on human rights, behind U.S. and European objections to China's entry into the World Trade Organization, is a strategy to contain China or to prevent its rise as a great power.

It almost seems out of place these days to speak of the friendly relations that marked the first 10 years of Deng Xiaoping's reforms, coinciding with Mr. Deng's visit to the United States in January 1979. That was the year that China's paramount leader went to the White House to reestablish diplomatic relations before jetting off to tour America, even stopping in Houston to wear a cowboy hat and ride in a rodeo at the Astrodome.

Patrick E. Tyler/The New York Times

Students strolling on the campus of Nanjing University, where a heroic monument stands as inspiration.

"I don't think it is a question of being friendly or not," Ms. Huang said. "Nowadays, I think a country's relations with other countries are decided by economic interests."

Not too many years ago, millions of Chinese students, repelled by the corruption and inflation engendered by Communist Party policies, came out of their campuses to demand democratic reforms. Those demonstrations of 1989 led to a violent military crackdown ordered by Mr. Deng and carried out by a hard-line faction led by Prime Minister Li Peng.

Now, university students remain committed to such lofty concepts as reform, but the emphasis has changed.

"Today, we are swimming in a different sea," said a legal scholar in Beijing, who explained that Chinese students today were less inclined to place the blame for everything with the Communist Party or the government in Beijing and more likely to find fault with other forces in the world, particularly the United States.

"I think China should first become stronger," said Lei San, 22, a computer sciences major here. "Then we can concentrate on building democracy."

Ms. Huang added a different perspective. "The majority of students want to develop both economic and political reforms," she said, "because people cannot live on bread alone."

One thing seemed clear from these youthful expressions: the Communist Party leadership is benefiting from the wave of patriotic spirit — or nationalism — that is rolling through the student population.

Not far from this campus, busloads of Chinese schoolchildren arrive each day to tour the museum built in memory of the victims of the Japanese 10th Army in World War II. The invaders swept into this ancient city, whose name means "southern capital" in Chinese, in November 1937 and began a campaign of rape, pillage and killing that left as many as 300,000 dead.

The museum director, Zhu Chengshan, said visits had more than doubled in the last three years.

"Our purpose is to provide patriotic education for children and young people, and not to let them forget history as we strive to make the country stronger," he said. "We intend to use patriotism as a unifying force because China needs stability."

Chechen War Is Still Fierce Despite Yeltsin Vows of Peace

By Michael Specter
New York Times Service

SHALI, Russia — The people of the Chechen flatlands have developed a routine in the weeks since President Boris N. Yeltsin announced his initiative to end the war in this secessionist region in southern Russia.

They get up at dawn to watch the Russian bombers drop their deadly cargo in the mountains to the south. Then they wait for the heavy artillery to ring across the misty valleys of the region. Then they pray.

"Boris Yeltsin says that he is ready for peace," said Maskhadov, the military leader Chechen separatists, who have ingly turned this city 40 kilome miles) southeast of the ruins of into a new rebel capital. "The the war worse than it has ev before?"

It is a difficult question for an traveling across the smashed vi Chechnya. From one end of this republic to the next, soldiers are as fiercely as at any time since L ber 1994, when more than 30,00 sian troops poured into the mu region.

Desperate to end the war befo presidential election in June, Yeltsin has said that if the fighting times, he will surely lose. Last mo he announced an immediate end to all offensive military activities in the republic.

The next day, at dawn, his bombers struck the villages strung across the southern mountains — where most Chechen rebels are based. They have attacked almost without stop since Mr. Yeltsin made his speech.

Almost every day now Mr. Yeltsin states publicly that the air war in Chechnya is over. Every night, Russian television shows devastating pictures of the air war in Chechnya. There are times, standing 30 kilometers away from the worst bombing, when the assault from the sky becomes so relentless that it looks as if somebody has taken a giant torch to the snowcapped mountains.

"We expected a change after Yeltsin's speech, and we certainly got one," Captain Javier Laguna said with undisguised bitterness. Captain Laguna, a Spaniard, works in Grozny for the officially nonpartisan Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has for a year tried to mediate the war.

"The shelling and bombing has grown worse," he said. "The civilian population is being annihilated. Whether Yeltsin is lying or the military is not listening to him, we cannot know. All we see is that the Russians haven't stopped the war at all."

Russian soldiers, from poorly trained and underfed conscripts to leading commanders, laugh openly at the notion of a peace initiative. Outside Sernovodsk, a town on the border of Ingushetia that the Russians have bombed mercilessly in the last month, the flag of the defunct Soviet Union — not of Russia — flies from the headquarters of the military commander.

"We had discipline then and no fear," said a colonel who denied a reporter access to the town and refused to give his name. "It is time the military again gained control of itself."

Now there is no discipline and much fear among the Russian troops. Bands of teen-age soldiers wander the roads here stopping cars and begging for vodka, bread, or tea. They drink rainwater. Many look like orphans who have not had a bath or a meal in months.

There is a common view, heard among soldiers, relief workers, and local residents, that the military has simply decided to defy Mr. Yeltsin.

Lieutenant General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the commander of Russian troops here, said on the independent Russian NTV television news recently that he thought that continuing the war was more effective than starting peace talks.

■ Chechen Aide Wounded

Badruddi Dzhamalkhanov, a deputy prime minister in Chechnya's pro-Moscow government, was wounded in an assassination attempt on Tuesday when his car came under a hail of fire in the Grozny, Reuters reported.

Mitsubishi Workers Protest Sex-Harassment Lawsuit

By Kirstin Downey Grimsley and Warren Brown
Washington Post Service

CHICAGO — Saying they came to protect their personal and corporate reputations, about 2,500 auto workers from the Mitsubishi plant in Normal, Illinois, marched outside the office here of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to protest the federal agency's sexual harassment lawsuit against the company.

Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America shut down two shifts of auto production at the plant, paid for the 59 buses to make the six-hour round trip to Chicago, paid the participating workers a full day's wages and gave them lunch to support the march, which company officials say was organized by the workers themselves.

Although Mitsubishi officials deny that anyone was pressured to attend the march, workers who stayed behind were told to write letters to their supervisors explaining what work they would do when they showed up at the plant Monday, sources said. Some were required to attend a sexual harassment seminar.

Officials at the United Auto Workers Local 2488 said several of its members were supporting the company. The local has taken no public position on the suit or its allegations. But union officials said privately that sign-up sheets for the march posted by the company were themselves a source of pressure because they allowed the company to identify friends and foes.

Stephen Yokich, UAW president, issued a statement from Detroit over the weekend that was more blunt. "Mitsubishi's efforts to pressure its employees" into demonstrating against the EEOC "is just plain wrong," he said.

The march is the latest step in Mitsubishi's aggressive public relations campaign to combat the allegations, which it denies. The company has installed telephone lines for workers to make free phone calls to their representatives in Congress.

The workers at the march were mostly white and male, but some women attended. They shouted slogans and milled in the street outside the Chicago EEOC office, chanting "EEOC, you don't represent me," and "2,4,6,8, we're here to set the story straight." They unfurled a long banner asking the EEOC to stop "slandering" them.

Standing in the center of the crowd with a bullhorn, Eldon Berg, a tall, gangly man with dangling earrings and gold chains around his neck, led cheers and directed foot traffic. Mr. Berg, who has worked at Mitsubishi for seven years, assumed an almost ecclesiastical cadence as he led his co-workers in chants.

"Men," he shouted, "are we perverts?" The crowd shouted back, "No."

"Do we have sex on the line?" "No," the crowd answered.

"Do we get naked on the line?" The crowd shouted "no."

"Do we have church people on the line?" The crowd shouted "yes."

The EEOC lawsuit, filed in the federal court in Peoria two weeks ago, charges that there was a widespread pattern of sexual harassment and intimidation at the Mitsubishi plant. It contends that women were referred to repeatedly as "whores" and "bitches," were subjected to unwanted physical contact and were pressured to confer sexual favors.

The EEOC says it is the largest case of sexual harassment it has encountered.

Liberian Peace Force Helps Itself

By Jonathan C. Randal
Washington Post Service

MONROVIA, Liberia — The West African peacekeeping force in Liberia has been hailed by some as a bastion of security in a chaotic land. It has been vilified by others as an occupation force prone to corruption, looting and arms-running. But it has served one purpose about which few disagreed: It maintained law and order here in Monrovia.

Now, however, the recent outbreak of factional fighting in the capital has prompted Liberians and foreign diplomats to wonder whether the West African troops are still capable of fulfilling even that basic task.

Reporters moving around the city between April 6, when the fighting erupted, and last Friday, when a shaky factional cease-fire took hold, saw no peacekeeping soldiers intervening to stop street battles or looting, which have caused damage estimated at millions of dollars to UN offices, stores and warehouses and to private humanitarian relief agencies.

Journalists did, however, see the peacekeepers loading one of their trucks with clothing removed from a downtown shop.

At the height of a looting spree by factional gunmen on Friday, 12 peacekeeping soldiers briefly abandoned their weapons and sought asylum in the U.S. Embassy, explaining that they had not come to Liberia to die. They later had second thoughts and returned to duty.

Asked to evaluate the West African force's performance, Major Patrick S. Okoh, its spokesman, said the troops have guarded checkpoints, the airport, the seaport, hospitals, electricity and telephone companies and the Executive Mansion, "where all the faction leaders want to sit."

Asked why the troops failed to protect UN and private aid agencies in Monrovia's diplomatic quarter from looters, Major Okoh said: "We did our best, considering our resources. We did what we did reasonably well."

The peacekeeping force was established in 1990 when the United States and the United Nations declined to intervene in Liberia's civil war and the 13-member Economic Community of West African States stepped in.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and the most powerful in the region, supplied the leadership and the bulk of the troops for what became a seven-nation force.

The peacekeepers at first held Monrovia and prevented Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia, which started Liberia's civil war when it invaded from neighboring Ivory Coast on Dec. 24, 1989, from taking control of the country.

But it was unable to prevent a splinter group of Mr. Taylor's faction from snatching President Samuel K. Doe from the peacekeeping force's protection in September 1990, torturing and killing him.

For two years after Mr. Doe's death, the force maintained order in Monrovia and propped up an interim government while factions led by Mr. Taylor and others alternately did battle and negotiated peace. When Mr. Taylor tried to overrun Monrovia in October 1992, the force staved off the monthlong assault.

The first commander of the peacekeeping force, a Nigerian like his successors, earned instant respect. In no-nonsense fashion, he executed 120 marauding militiamen who defied his warnings not to roam the roads in and around the capital.

But in recent years, the regional solution has come to be seen by many here as "a regional joke," as one European resident, speaking anonymously, put it.

Diplomats say the West African force, with the notable exception of its contingent from Ghana, began either helping itself to loot — tropical wood, diamonds, iron ore, rubber and scrap iron — or sharing the spoils with armed factions it had aided and abetted, principally the United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy and the Armed Forces of Liberia.

Nigerian ships put into Liberian ports to carry off booty, including an entire iron-ore processing plant in Buchanan that was dismantled piece by piece in 1994.

Pilots' Unit Backs Curb

The Associated Press

FREDERICK, Maryland — The largest pilots' group in the United States has come out in support of a proposed law that would prohibit flights like the one that killed 7-year-old Jessica Dubroff earlier this month.

The bill, introduced last week by Representative John J. Duncan Jr., Republican of Tennessee, would make it illegal to turn over the controls of an airplane to an unlicensed pilot trying to set an aeronautical record, engage in an aeronautical competition or perform an aeronautical feat. The bill would not set an age limit for young flyers.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association said it had never supported record flights by children because media attention could lead to bad decisions, Jessica, her father, Lloyd Dubroff, and Joe Reid, her flight instructor, were killed shortly after taking off in heavy rain in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She was trying to become the youngest person to fly across the continent.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Cancellations Hit Hotels in Egypt

CAIRO (Reuters) — Egyptian hotels said Tuesday that several groups of visitors had canceled reservations as a result of the massacre of 17 Greek tourists outside a Cairo hotel last Thursday.

The Semiramis Intercontinental in central Cairo said a group of 250 Americans had canceled reservations for four nights in Cairo and a trip to southern Egypt.

AT&T moved a meeting of regional executives from Cairo to Abu Dhabi after the attack by Muslim militants outside the Europa Hotel near the Giza Pyramids.

And the 500-room Mena House Oberoi, at the foot of the Pyramids, said it had received cancellations for 50 rooms since the attack. "The rooms had been booked for periods over the next few weeks," a reservations clerk said. "It could be worse."

The militant Islamic Group took responsibility for the attack, in which an Egyptian employed by the hotel was also killed, but said it had meant to kill Israelis in revenge for Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Concern About Sites in Lebanon

PARIS (Reuters) — The head of Unesco on Tuesday called for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon, voicing concern about the loss of life and possible damage to such archaeological sites as Tyre.

Unesco has put Tyre, which has been bombed and shelled by the Israelis in their offensive against Hezbollah guerrillas, on the World Heritage list of major historical sites.

SAS Seeks Gambling Flights

COPENHAGEN (AFX) — Scandinavian Airlines System plans to introduce casinos on long-distance flights if it receives approval from the authorities in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, a spokesman for the airline said.

The Swedish government has said it is not opposed to the idea, he said, while the Norwegian government has said casinos are not "a good idea." The Danish government has yet to make its position known.

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هكذا من الأصل

THE AMERICAS

Ron Edmonds/The Associated Press

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore hard at work at Great Falls National Park.

U.S. on Alert for Terrorism at the Olympics

Security Forces Drilling Against Poison Gas and Nuclear Attack

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Saying that the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer could become a prime target for terrorists, federal authorities are taking precautions against the use there of such unconventional weaponry as poison gas, germ weapons or even a nuclear device.

Although the FBI said it had "not identified a credible threat" against the Games, the bombings of the World Trade Center in New York in 1993 and of the Oklahoma City federal building last year have provoked heightened concern about the possibility of a terrorist attack at the Olympics.

Moreover, a cult's use of poison gas in the Tokyo subway system has sown anxiety about threats from unconventional weapons. As a result, a task force under Vice President Al Gore has been devoting considerable effort to preparing countermeasures.

Officials are forming what they describe as the largest security force ever assembled in peacetime for a public U.S. event. The group will be more than double the force of 12,000 that protected the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, which had half the 15,000 athletes expected in Atlanta.

The Atlanta Olympics run from July 19 to Aug. 4, and 2 million visitors are expected. More than 40 heads of state are also due to visit.

With roughly two thirds of the Olympic sporting events packed into a relatively small area near the city's center, officials said they were concerned that the event could provide extremists with a rare opportunity to command wide public attention.

At the heart of the security operation will be 3,000 U.S. Army troops, 6,300 National Guardsmen and at least 10,000 other policemen and private security guards, with an additional force of agents from the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and other federal agencies stationed nearby.

Security officials said they would try to strike a balance between ensuring adequate protection and transforming the Olympic grounds into an armed camp. The troops will not carry weapons, for example. "We keep telling everybody we will be armed with a radio and a smile," said Major General Robert R. Hicks Jr., head of the U.S. Army Forces Command in Atlanta.

'We are in the Boy Scout frame: Be prepared.'

The preparations also include a series of secret exercises by the FBI and other agencies to simulate a chemical, nuclear or biological attack and cope with the mayhem it might produce.

In one drill, staged by the FBI and other federal and local agencies in Atlanta over a three-day period last week, a mock terrorist group carrying deadly nerve gas drove a van through the city and crashed into a tanker carrying gasoline while other members of the same group held passengers hostage aboard a hijacked plane at the Atlanta airport.

In another exercise under the direction of the Defense Nuclear Agency, a terrorist group threatened to detonate a nuclear device composed of spent reactor fuel near Atlanta's center. Still another simulation is planned involving the use of germ weapons, according to congressional testimony.

Underscoring the high-level attention the problem is getting, a field exercise last week included a deputy U.S. attorney general, Jamie S. Gorelick, and other senior officials in Washington. In a real crisis, Mr. Gorelick would have to help decide when special U.S. military units should be dispatched to help the FBI.

Although military forces are usually barred by law from involvement in law enforcement, the Justice Department and the White House have prepared legal authorizations to use at the Olympic Games if necessary.

"For any terrorist group that would like to make a statement or extort demands from the U.S. government, the Olympics constitutes a very juicy target," a Defense Department official said.

"We don't have any special intelligence that there is going to be an attack on the Games, but we are in the Boy Scout frame: Be prepared."

The cost of all these efforts has not been calculated, officials said. But the Pentagon budget for supporting the games is at least $47 million, and the state of Georgia has committed $25 million for security.

Young Smokers Focus of RJR Marketing Memo

By John Schwartz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A newly available internal document from the tobacco giant R. J. Reynolds, detailing marketing efforts in the 1970s, appears to belie company denials that it has targeted underage smokers or that advertising has any effect on young people.

A memo from July 3, 1974, from the marketing research executive, D. W. Tredennick, noted that a new male smoker "generally starts during his teens," with more than half becoming regular smokers before the age of 18. It concludes that, along with peer pressure, new smokers choose a brand because of "the user image a brand projects and differentiated product characteristics."

"To some extent young smokers 'wear' their cigarette and it becomes an important part of the 'I' they wish to be, along with their clothing and the way they style their hair," the memo continued.

The memo and three other papers discussing the drug properties of nicotine were obtained by Mississippi's attorney general, Mike Moore, during his state's efforts to sue the tobacco industry for reimbursement of Medicaid expenses. The papers were filed with the Food and Drug Administration as part of the agency's extended "comment period" on its proposal to regulate tobacco in order to curb youth access.

Another memo, from 1973 and by Claude E. Teague, Jr., then RJR's assistant director of research and development, proposed marketing cigarettes to underage smokers, suggesting that teenage rebellion might make the risks of smoking more attractive to that market.

"Realistically, if our company is to survive and prosper, over the long term, we must get our share of the youth market," he wrote in the memo, which was made public last year.

Other documents included in the Mississippi submission contain statements that also could be damaging to RJR, the second largest U.S. tobacco company.

A Jan. 5, 1978, interoffice memo from T. A. Perfetti on comparisons between nicotine and opiates suggested that the company conduct further tests to better understand the concept of "satisfaction" for smokers, saying:

"I have no doubt that the work will be done and relatively soon, since nicotine is the next naturally occurring alkaloid used in appreciable amounts which has been implicated as an addictive drug. I can't stress this fact enough, since its results could be devastating to the tobacco industry as a whole."

All such statements would appear to contradict long-held industry positions that cigarette manufacturers do not manipulate nicotine levels, that flavor is the chief reason that people smoke and that nicotine is merely a component of the flavor of the cigarette.

■ AMA Advises Investors

The American Medical Association urged investors to divest themselves of stocks and mutual funds tied to the tobacco industry, Reuters reported Tuesday from Washington.

POLITICAL NOTES

Dole Running Poorly, Bennett Complains

WASHINGTON — William Bennett, the prominent Republican and a former education secretary, called on Bob Dole to resign as Senate majority leader, saying his presidential campaign was incoherent and dispassionate.

Mr. Bennett gave his assessment of Mr. Dole's candidacy to a meeting of big-money donors to GOPAC, a political action committee dedicated to maintaining Republican control of Congress.

No fan of Mr. Dole's nomination from the start, Mr. Bennett campaigned for former Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and had even considered running himself.

Mr. Bennett said that Mr. Dole, a principal architect of budget compromises with President Bill Clinton, should give up his Senate leadership role.

"It's a trap," Mr. Bennett said.

He also said that Mr. Dole's campaign lacked passion and ideological fervor.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dole faced certain victory in Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary as Patrick J. Buchanan, his only remaining rival for the Republican presidential nomination, chose not to run that race. The Senate leader declared victory in the race for the candidacy on March 26 following primaries in California, Nevada and Washington state. Still, he traveled to Pennsylvania twice last week and is determined to use the primaries as a stepping stone to regain ground against Clinton, who leads opinion polls. *(AP, AFP)*

Ethics Investigation Is Urged for Gingrich

WASHINGTON — The volunteer work that a telecommunications entrepreneur performed in the office of the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, is under attack again in a new ethics complaint.

Contending that new information is available, the complaint asked the House ethics committee to reopen an investigation into the activities of a Wisconsin businessman named Donald Jones. The complaint said Mr. Gingrich violated House rules and federal law by allowing Mr. Jones to misuse the speaker's office.

The committee ended its original inquiry on March 29. It told Mr. Gingrich he failed to comply with standards governing volunteers but decided against punishing him. *(AP)*

Health Help for Jobless

WASHINGTON — The Senate unanimously passed legislation Tuesday to guarantee millions of workers who lose or switch jobs every year an opportunity to buy health insurance.

The bill, approved by a vote of 100 to 0, now goes to a House-Senate conference committee where significant differences between it and the House version must be worked out. *(AP)*

Ferraro's N.Y. Strength

NEW YORK — Geraldine Ferraro, the 1984 Democratic vice-presidential candidate, is the only Democrat who would defeat Mayor Rudolph Giuliani if the mayoral election were held right now, according to a new poll.

The poll of 741 registered voters, conducted by Quinnipiac College of Hamden, Connecticut, early this month, shows that Ms. Ferraro would beat Mr. Giuliani, a Republican, 45 percent to 40 percent.

By contrast, Mr. Giuliani would defeat four other Democrats who might be his challengers in 1997, including Ruth Messinger and Fernando Ferrer, the borough presidents of Manhattan and the Bronx, respectively.

Ms. Ferraro, a former congresswoman from Queens, has said that while many people are encouraging her to run for mayor, she has not yet decided whether to run for any office.

The poll, conducted from April 11 to 16, has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points. *(NYT)*

Quote/Unquote

President Bill Clinton, who joined Vice President Al Gore in helping to clear flood debris scattered along a canal in Great Falls National Park in Maryland: "We can and we must protect the environment. None of our children should have to live near a toxic waste dump or eat food poisoned by pesticides. Our grandchildren should not have to live in a world stripped of its natural beauty." *(AP)*

Away From Politics

• **Saying a boy's life is more precious than religious beliefs,** a jury in Albany, Oregon, has decided. It convicted a father of criminally negligent homicide for choosing prayer over medicine to treat his 7-year-old son's leukemia. *(AP)*

• **One of two brothers** convicted of hiring hitmen to kill their parents has been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison in Los Angeles. *(AP)*

• **A judge in Olympia, Washington, has upheld the state's ban on smoking** in private office buildings, ruling that state officials had plenty of scientific evidence that secondhand smoke poses a risk to workers. *(AP)*

• **Navy investigators are looking into allegations** that three women were sexually assaulted or harassed by fellow members of a squadron that tests weapons at a base at Point Mugu, California, officials said. *(LAT)*

• **A 6-week-old baby was critically injured** while two boys were stealing a bicycle from his home, the police in Richmond, California, said. The police were seeking to determine if the boys, age 6 and 8, meant to harm the infant. *(AP)*

AMERICAN TOPICS

How Movie Clichés Have Been Updated

Movie clichés have changed since the 1930s, when the pages of a day calendar blew away to show the passage of time, or a a newspaper twirled toward the audience until it stopped to reveal the blaring headline "GANGLAND KILLING."

Today, notes Bob Thomas, the longtime Hollywood correspondent of The Associated Press, clichés have been updated.

The computer: With a witness's description of a suspect, the cops give the machine a few tweaks here, a click there, and suddenly the image of the killer appears on the screen.

The telephone answering machine: The first thing the heroine does when she enters her apartment is to press the playback button. The message is either a jilted boyfriend pleading for another chance or a homicidal maniac vowing mayhem.

The car chase: If it is staged in hilly San Francisco, as half of them are, one scene is obligatory: the car becoming airborne as it plunges over the brow of a hill.

No matter where the chase occurs, it must include a shot of the crooks or the cops careening the wrong way on a one-way street, the oncoming cars scattering, horns blaring.

Another favorite: A speeding car takes a shortcut on a busy sidewalk, scattering the shrieking pedestrians and obliterating vegetable stands.

Short Takes

Add to health risks: Well-done steak. The latest research suggests that cooking meat too long—and at too high a temperature—increases the risk of cancer. "We found increasing risk with increasing doneness," said Mary H. Ward, a National Cancer Institute epidemiologist. The findings were for steaks but not for roasts, which cook at much lower temperatures, and do not increase cancer risk even if well done.

NationsBank in Washington intended to offer full customer service, but perhaps not this full: a sign posted over the weekend at many of its Virginia branches advised ATM users they would be charged a fee if they weren't NationsBank customers. And the sign offered an 800 number for those with further questions. Sorry, wrong number. "Oh, baby, now you've gone and done it," purrs the voice on tape. "You've dialed into the hottest phone service there is...." A bank spokeswoman said: "We are still evaluating the extent of that problem. We hope the number is now covered up at every bank center."

When Kerry Kotler was freed after 11 years in prison for rape, he became one of the first convicts in the United States to be liberated by DNA testing. Now the very technology that freed him will be used against him. This month, four years after being released from prison, Mr. Kotler was charged in Hauppage, New York, with another rape. DNA tests matched him to semen found on the victim's clothing, prosecutors say. "Not even John Grisham could have fashioned such a turn of events," said the Suffolk County district attorney, James Catterson.

International Herald Tribune

Medicare's Losses Grow

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund lost $4.2 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year, evidence that the program remains an immense budget problem.

The trust fund, which pays hospital bills for the elderly and disabled, lost $35.7 million last year, the first loss since 1972.

And new data show that the losses are growing. In the first half of the current fiscal year, from October 1995 through March, the trust fund spent $60.5 billion and took in $56.3 billion, a shortfall of $4.2 billion, the Treasury Department said.

Still, there is little chance that the trust fund, which has $120 billion, will actually run out of money.

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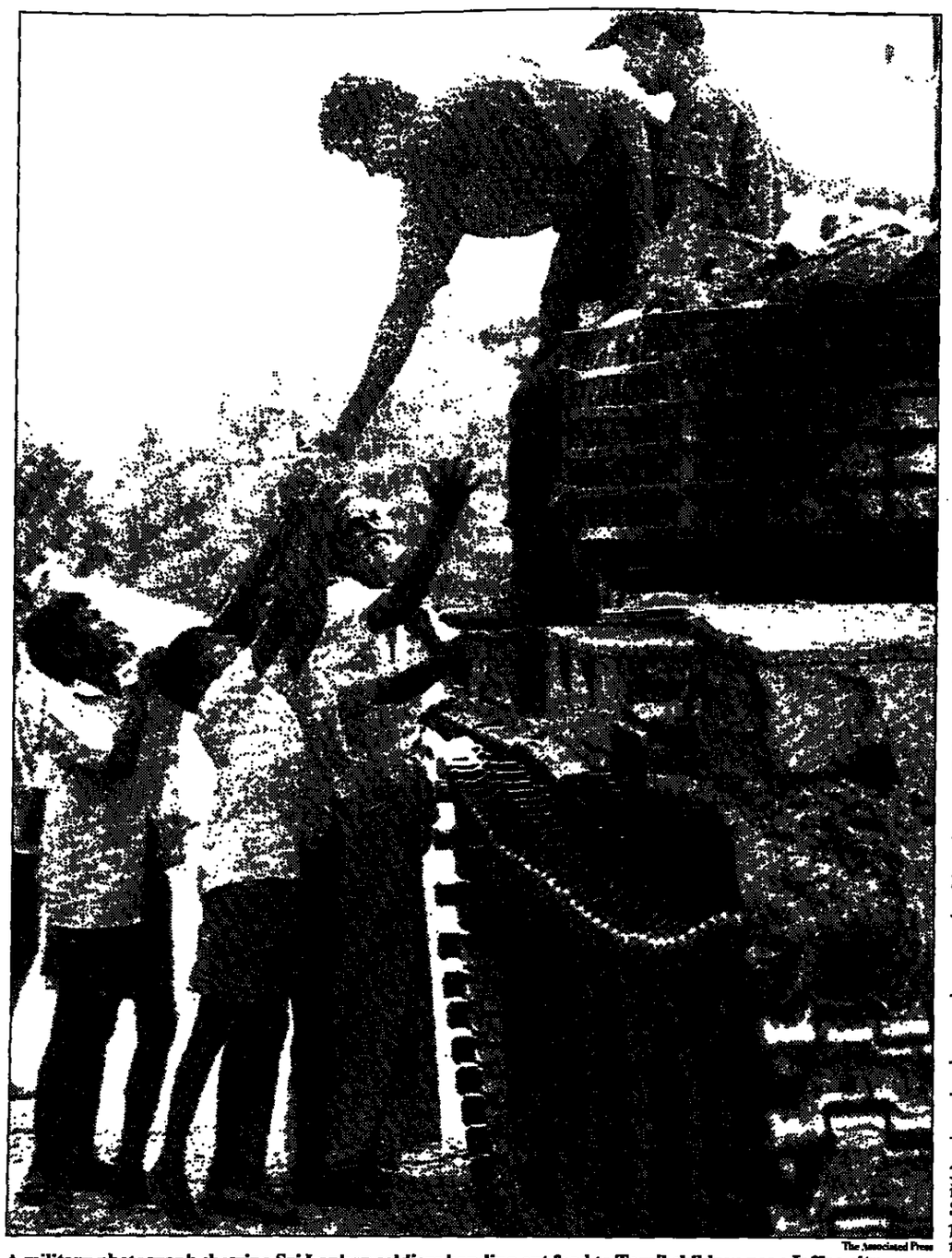

The Associated Press

A military photograph showing Sri Lankan soldiers handing out food to Tamil children near Jaffna city.

Sri Lankan Planes Attack Rebel Bases

The Associated Press

COLOMBO — Government warplanes hammered Tamil rebel targets in northern Sri Lanka on Tuesday as troops pressed an offensive that has killed more than 100 rebels in five days, the military said.

The rebel bases attacked were in the coastal town of Point Pedro on the northern Jaffna Peninsula, and in Mullaittivu on the northeast coast, said Major Tilak Dunuwille, a military spokesman. He said a rebel base and eight boats ferrying guerrillas across the Jaffna lagoon were destroyed in the air attacks.

Rebel casualties in the air strikes were not immediately known, but Major Dunuwille said more than 100 guerrillas and two soldiers had been killed in fighting on the ground.

On Friday, the military launched its biggest offensive against the rebels since December, when troops captured the western Jaffna Peninsula and the rebel capital, Jaffna city.

The rebels have offered little resistance and are fleeing to jungles on the main part of Sri Lanka where they have established a new stronghold.

More than 200,000 Tamil civilians have fled the war zone, slowing the military's drive into rebel-held areas over the weekend.

The rebels, who are seeking an independent homeland for Tamils, accused the military of killing many civilians. "Large number of body parts are lying along the roads," the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said in a statement.

China Affirms Stand on Koreas

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — China indicated Tuesday that it had little interest in joining talks proposed by the United States to ease tensions on the volatile Korean Peninsula.

"It is our hope that the interested parties will seek to resolve their differences through consultations," the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, said.

President Bill Clinton and President Kim Young Sam of South Korea proposed last week that their nations join China and North Korea in peace talks designed to end more than four decades of enmity between the two Koreas. Beijing's initial reaction was cool, with the Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, saying it was up to the Koreans to negotiate without outside interference.

Tensions on the peninsula rose this month when North Korea sent troops into the Demilitarized Zone that separates it from South Korea and said it was abandoning its obligations under the 43-year-old armistice that halted the 1950-53 Korean War.

Mr. Shen said that there was still disagreement about how to negotiate an end to the tensions between Pyongyang and Seoul and that they should sort out their differences among themselves.

"That should be a decision left to the sovereign states to make according to their own circumstances," he said.

North Korea, meanwhile, has sought clarifications on the proposal for the four-party talks, and an official in Seoul said South Korea was hopeful that the North would join the initiative.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Seoul, Suh Dae Won, said that Han Song Ryol, a minister at North Korea's United Nations mission, recently met with Richard Christenson, a Korean expert at the U.S. State Department, to discuss the offer.

South Korean officials said the United States was pressing Seoul to provide substantial economic aid to the North to lure it into the talks, news reports in Seoul said. *(Reuters, AFP)*

■ Missile Talks Will Continue

North Korea said Tuesday that talks about its missile program would continue with the United States, Reuters reported from Tokyo.

The first round of negotiations between the two parties, held in Berlin over the weekend, were hailed as a "good beginning" by U.S. officials. Neither side has provided details on the progress of the talks.

Chinese to Help Cambodian Forces

Agence France-Presse

PHNOM PENH — China has agreed to provide the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces with military training and $1 million in aid this year as it fights Beijing's former Khmer Rouge allies, Cambodian officials said Tuesday.

The officials said that the assistance was promised to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and the two defense ministers, Tea Banh and Tea Chamrath, by General Zhang Wannian, the vice-chairman of China's Central Military Commission, who is visiting the country.

Under the agreement, an as yet undetermined number of Cambodian officers will attend training courses in China, said Ek Sereywath, secretary of state for the Ministry of Defense.

The cash will go toward purchasing communications and construction equipment, he said.

"Cooperation between the two armies is becoming stronger and stronger," Mr. Ek Sereywath said.

Though China has provided uniforms, boots and medicine for the country's forces since 1992, it has not trained Cambodian fighters.

Officials said they hoped additional assistance to the ill-equipped, poorly trained Cambodian Army would follow this new aid.

"They realize the difficulties our armed forces are in so they have agreed to take the first step of offering training and giving the $1 million," Mr. Tea Banh said of the Chinese.

China provided money, training, weapons and logistical support to the Maoist Khmer Rouge during the 1970s and 1980s, but ended its support of the guerrilla faction after signing the 1991 Paris peace accords, which technically ended Cambodia's long-running civil war. The Khmer Rouge, however, continue to battle the government.

For 'Boat People,' A Chance (Trap?)

By Maggie Farley
Los Angeles Times Service

HONG KONG — For the 36,000 Vietnamese refugees in detention camps around Southeast Asia, a new U.S. plan to resettle qualifying refugees could be their last chance for life in America — or, by some accounts, a trap.

On Monday, the U.S. government announced a program aimed at helping to end the long, often bitter story of the thousands of "boat people," the economic and political refugees who fled Indochina and ended up in countries around the region in the years after the Vietnam War.

Washington said it would find homes for Vietnamese refugees who can demonstrate genuine ties to the United States. There is one condition, however: They must return to Vietnam to apply.

The plan is designed to lure home thousands of holdouts in camps across Southeast Asia, many of whom fear they will be harassed or imprisoned if they return to Vietnam. The still-crowded camps are scheduled to close at the end of June, except for the largest settlement, in Hong Kong.

The plan offers resettlement to those who can show close ties to the United States or the former South Vietnamese government before 1975, and to members of certain ethnic or religious groups. And it offers a glimmer of hope to those who say they fled Vietnam to escape persecution.

They are the last of more than 1.6 million Vietnamese who have left their country since the war ended more than 20 years ago.

The United Nations, which has turned its attention to more recent and pressing refugee cases in Rwanda and Eastern Europe, says most of the people left in the camps have been classified as economic migrants and should be repatriated.

The Southeast Asian countries holding the largely unpopular settlements welcomed the news Monday. A government spokesman in Hong Kong urged the territory's 18,358 migrants to "seize the opportunity" and "apply for voluntary repatriation as soon as possible."

But Pam Baker, a Hong Kong lawyer and advocate for Vietnamese migrants, is skeptical. "This is meant to spur them into going back without any sort of guarantee at the other end," she said. "This is a sophisticated population of people who will want a lot more specific details. A vague promise is not good enough."

She argues that Vietnam has sole control of exit permits and may be reluctant to admit that any of its citizens face danger by returning, even if the United States will accept them.

Applicants must enlist in the program by June 30 and go to Vietnam for an interview. Only those detained since Oct. 30, 1995, are eligible; migrants who returned to Vietnam before that date will not qualify, a U.S. spokesman said.

The United Nations and other international organizations recently ended financial incentives to induce people to return to Vietnam, a country that has shown considerable economic growth and political opening since most of the migrants left on rickety boats over the last decade.

The United Nations still aids those who return voluntarily, but host governments like that in Hong Kong have launched a parallel program to send migrants home by force if they don't volunteer.

The Hong Kong government is eager to clear the camps — which it has grudgingly funded the last seven years — before China takes over the territory in 1997.

BRIEFLY ASIA

Hashimoto Rebounds in Poll

TOKYO — Public support for the government of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has rebounded sharply following his meeting last week with President Bill Clinton, a Japanese business newspaper reported Tuesday.

Support for Mr. Hashimoto rose to 48.3 percent, from 36.7 percent in March, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said. The percentage of those who disapprove of the government fell to 28.5 percent from 40.2 percent. *(Reuters)*

Cambodia Will Join ASEAN

PARIS — King Norodom Sihanouk said Tuesday that Cambodia would join the Association of South East Asian Nations in 1997, even though he opposed the organization.

Speaking after lunch with Prime Minister Alain Juppé of France, the king said that Mr. Juppé and President Jacques Chirac, had encouraged membership. He said he was "not for ASEAN," but added: "As I am francophile, France says: 'Go on, join it,' so there I go." *(AFP)*

Dire Warning to Indian Voters

NEW DELHI — India could break up if the opposition wins parliamentary elections starting on April 27, Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao warned Tuesday.

At a rally in Andhra Pradesh, he cited the disintegration of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and said "a similar situation would emerge in India" if his Congress (I) Party lost, the Press Trust of India reported. *(AFP)*

Aum Cult Member Convicted

TOKYO — A court convicted a former member of the Aum Shinrikyo cult on Tuesday and sentenced him to four years in jail for abducting a man who was later killed, allegedly on the orders of the cult leader, Shoko Asahara.

The verdict against Takeshi Matsumoto, 30, came on the eve of Mr. Asahara's trial. He is accused of organizing a nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway. At the sentencing, Judge Atsushi Senba said Mr. Asahara ordered the 1995 abduction of Kiyoshi Kariya, the NHK network said. *(AP)*

Seoul Aide Admits Taking Cash

SEOUL — A top aide to President Kim Young Sam admitted at his trial Tuesday that he had taken nearly $900,000 in bribes from business executives since 1990.

Chang Hak Ro, 46, faces at least 10 years in prison if convicted of bribery. *(AP)*

VOICES From Asia

Paul Keating, former Australian prime minister, ending his 27-year political career: "I leave very proud of what the Labor government did, of what the Labor movement did and of what Australians did in the past decade to build a competitive Australian economy and marry it to a good Australian society." *(Reuters)*

Sieng Lapresse, spokesman for the Cambodian Information Ministry, commenting on a report that Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge chief, may be near death: "His death 10 times over will not equal his criminal acts against humanity, the nation and the people." *(AP)*

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Yeltsin Tied With His Top Rival, Poll Shows

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A nationwide poll shows Boris N. Yeltsin and the Communist leader, Gennadi A. Zyuganov, running neck-and-neck in the presidential race, with the Russian leader holding a slight edge for the first time.

Mr. Yeltsin was supported by 20.7 percent of respondents, compared with Mr. Zyuganov's 19.8 percent, according to The Moscow Times-CNN poll, issued Monday and published in the newspaper Tuesday.

The standings were so close as to be statistically insignificant, said Vladimir Andreyenkov, director of the CESSI Institute for Comparative Social Research, which conducted the poll of 1,201 people. Its margin of error was 3 percent.

But Mr. Yeltsin's re-election campaign is picking up steam as the June 16 ballot approaches, Mr. Andreyenkov said. Just last month, a Moscow Times-CNN poll showed Mr. Yeltsin with 14 percent to Mr. Zyuganov's 19.1 percent.

"Zyuganov is stable; he has already probably consolidated all of his supporters and has little left in reserve," Mr. Andreyenkov told the newspaper. "But if Yeltsin doesn't make any big mistakes, he will continue to earn votes."

Mr. Zyuganov discounted the poll's findings, saying that the democrats always appear to be faring better than they are.

Reto Meyer/Reuters

BIKER PROTEST — Residents of an apartment building in Zurich hung their bicycles from their windows on Tuesday to protest the closing of a parking area for their bikes, which is to be used for a restaurant.

U.K. Drops Beef Threat

Talks With EU Partners Still Stalemated

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Britain sought to back away from a confrontation with its European Union partners over "mad cow" disease on Tuesday, holding talks with EU officials on efforts to eradicate the disease and dropping earlier threats of trade retaliation if the Union does not lift a ban on British beef exports.

But if an improved tone was evident in a three-hour meeting here between Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg and the EU farm commissioner, Franz Fischler, the basic gap between Britain and its EU partners remained wide.

Mr. Hogg urged the Union to lift the export ban, at least partly, based on measures already taken to contain the disease, while Mr. Fischler said he was still waiting for Britain to present fresh plans for a partial slaughter of herds with outbreaks of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

"Controls have to convince us that the prerequisite is there" for lifting the export ban, Mr. Fischler said.

The continued stalemate made it unlikely that the Union would agree to begin easing the export ban when Mr. Hogg meets ministers from the other 14 EU countries in Luxembourg next Monday.

Still, EU officials welcomed Britain's more cooperative stance and said it should help resolve the crisis, which began a month ago when Britain first revealed a possible link between mad cow disease and the fatal human brain affliction called Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind, who hinted on Monday that Britain might impose its own ban on EU beef, backtracked on Tuesday and ruled out retaliation.

"That is not our style and I do not believe it will be necessary," he said in London.

The problem for Britain and its partners is how to agree on an eradication program whose chief aim is to restore consumer confidence in beef.

Mr. Hogg last week dismissed as unjustified any mass slaughter of cattle from herds with cases of mad cow disease, suggesting that the number was likely to be in the tens of thousands. Subsequent British press reports have said the government was considering killing around 40,000 cattle.

But on the Continent, where countries like France have slaughtered entire herds after a single case of the disease, most officials believe stronger measures are needed to reassure consumers and avert a collapse in beef demand across Europe.

Mindful of the differences, Mr. Hogg declined to predict an agreement to relax the ban at next Monday's ministerial meeting although he expressed hope that it would happen soon.

"I certainly hope on Monday I will be able to say things to my colleagues that are very reassuring on the safety of beef and on the seriousness of the measures taken to eradicate what is already a declining disease," he said.

He also said he had discussed with Mr. Fischler the possibility of lifting the ban on exports from certain regions, such as Northern Ireland and Scotland, where the disease has been less prevalent.

Vatican Takes the News of a Left-Leaning Italian Government Calmly

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

The Roman Catholic Church in Italy accepted with good grace on Tuesday the inevitability of a government dependent on the support of former and present Communists.

The Vatican expressed neither approval nor condemnation of the victory of the left, headed by the moderate Olive Tree coalition, in Sunday's general election.

Political observers said it was the first time since the Lateran Pacts in 1929, which established the Vatican as a separate state within Rome, that the church had remained completely neutral during an election campaign and left the faithful to make up their own minds.

The Vatican's official newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, reported the election victory factually, without editorial comment.

The bulletin of the Italian Bishops' Conference limited itself to saying that it hoped the election would lead to the formation of a stable government that would carry out necessary reforms.

The secular press gave little space to a development that would have been considered seismic a decade ago.

"The church's attitude has been rather ho-hum," said the Reverend John Navone, a Jesuit professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University. "That's good. It shows they are not afraid of the Communists."

The ban on communism still holds in regions like Latin America, where the Vatican opposes the Marxist-influenced Liberation Theology movement. Pope John Paul II has expressed concern about the Communist revival in his homeland, Poland.

But Father Navone said that in Italy, "the Vatican is not upset at all."

"Everybody has matured," he said. "The nice thing is that there is no more dialectical demonizing" of who is presumed to be saved and who damned.

In the years after World War II, the Vatican conducted a crusade against communism, making the 1950 doctrine of the Assumption of the Virgin a Catholic rallying point.

A 1949 decree made it a grave sin to militate or vote for both the Communist Party and any other party making common cause with it. Anyone voting Communist was to be excommunicated, and could only be absolved by the Holy See itself.

The Catholic Church also threw its behind the Christian Democratic Party, which governed Italy for than four decades until it splintered under scandal and corruption charges.

Former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, the quintessential Christian Democratic leader, who held high office throughout his party's period in power, is now on trial for allegedly associating with the Mafia.

What has apparently made the left's victory palatable as far as the Vatican is concerned is the presence of many former Christian Democrats in the Olive Tree and the reassuring nature of the bloc's leader, Romano Prodi. He is a practicing Catholic who lists the New Testament as one of his favorite books.

But analysts said the truce between the Vatican and the left could be tested if the Refounded Communist party pushes a hard left agenda as the price of its support for a government led by Mr. Prodi.

"We shall have to wait and see," said Bishop Alessandro Maggiolini of Como, who said that the Communists and former Communists running regional governments always blamed the central government when things went wrong. "Now they will have to show us what they can do. Without excuses."

BRIEFLY EUROPE

German State Averts Coalition Crisis

SCHWERIN, Germany — The shaky coalition governing Germany's poorest state narrowly avoided collapse Tuesday but left unresolved a dispute over the state's finance minister.

Social Democrats in the Baltic coast state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern backed off from demanding that their senior coalition partners, the Christian Democrats, immediately fire the Christian Democratic finance minister. The two sides held five hours of talks that went on until after midnight but failed to resolve the conflict.

Social Democratic leaders said they still wanted Finance Minister Baerbel Kleedehn to step down because of a controversial plan to save the shipbuilding industry, but the Christian Democrats stood firmly behind her. "I hope we can find a basis to continue the coalition," said Eckhard Rehberg, a Christian Democratic leader in the state's assembly. *(Reuters)*

EU Agrees on Consumer-Friendly Labels

LUXEMBOURG — The European Union agreed Tuesday that shoppers throughout the Union should be given the price of what they are buying according to weight or volume to make it easier to compare costs.

Consumer affairs ministers agreed that shops should clearly display the cost of a product per kilo, liter, meter, square meter or cubic meter, and not just the price of a box or can.

Shops that member states believe are too small, too remote or too specialized to deal with the new requirement will be exempt to avoid imposing too big a burden on small businesses. The new law still has to be formalized and will take effect two years after that. *(Reuters)*

Greece Rejects Turk Version of Shooting

ATHENS — Greece accused Turkey on Tuesday of harboring "slave traders" and rejected Ankara's protest over an incident this week in which a Greek patrol boat fired at a Turkish vessel.

Greek authorities say the Turkish boat had dropped off illegal immigrants on a Greek island and that warning shots were fired in the air. Ankara says the incident occurred in Turkish waters and that a Turkish fisherman was wounded.

The latest incident further complicates efforts to ease antagonism between Greece and Turkey. The two feuding North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies came close to a major conflict in January over the ownership of a group of islets in the Aegean Sea. *(Reuters)*

Latvia Welcome in NATO, Oslo Leader Says

RIGA, Latvia — Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway pledged her country's support Tuesday for Latvia's bid to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other Western alliances.

"We belong to one region and so we have common security goals and interests," Mrs. Brundtland said after a two-day visit to Riga, the Latvian capital.

Mrs. Brundtland stressed that NATO's role is evolving beyond purely military functions and that the former Soviet republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania could benefit from the change. "NATO is a democratic alliance and a defense alliance, and it is not a military threat to anyone," she said. *(AP)*

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Wednesday:

BRUSSELS: Weekly meeting of the European Commission.

BRUSSELS: The environmental commissioner, Ritt Bjerregaard, meets with the Slovenian environment minister, Pavle Gantar.

BRUSSELS: The commission president, Jacques Santer, meets with the chairman of the Committee of the Regions, Pascual Maragall i Mira.

BRUSSELS: The transportation commissioner, Neil Kinnock, participates in a conciliation session between the council and the Parliament on trans-European networks.

ANKARA: The external relations commissioner, Hans van den Broek, begins a visit to Turkey.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

Mall Developer Is Prepared to Halt Project At Auschwitz

The Associated Press

WARSAW — A Polish developer said Tuesday that he was ready to withdraw from a mini-mall project near the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz if he receives an order from the authorities banning the construction.

The developer, Janusz Marszalek, who suspended the construction April 2 on an order from the government, said he expected that President Aleksander Kwasniewski should tell the provincial authorities whether to ban or approve the project.

"If it's forbidden, then I won't continue the construction," Mr. Marszalek said by telephone from his office in Oswiecim, in southern Poland, where the camp is situated. "If it's allowed, then I will continue."

He said he did not know when the decision would be made.

Foreign Minister Dariusz Rosati, meanwhile, on a visit to the United States, told the American Jewish Committee, an organization of 70,000 Jews, that the decision to stop the construction "is final," the Polish news agency PAP reported Tuesday.

Mr. Marszalek said no work was being done at the site now because he would "not fuel money into something that is uncertain."

He said the order to suspend construction, which he received from provincial authorities, was prompted by a "political decision" taken by Mr. Kwasniewski during a meeting with Jewish leaders last month.

The plan to build a shopping center with a restaurant, a fast-food stand for 140 people and a parking lot for 200 cars across the street from the Auschwitz camp, has drawn virulent protests from camp survivors and Jewish organizations.

U.S. and France Sign New Extradition Pact

Reuters

PARIS — France and the United States on Tuesday signed a new extradition convention to strengthen the fight against terrorism and organized crime, the French Justice Ministry said.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and Justice Minister Jacques Toubon signed the bilateral pact, replacing a 1909 convention.

The ministry said extradition was often difficult or impossible under the old 1909 rules and that the new convention was based on modern extradition laws within the European Union.

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In Paris For Business

A NEW ENTREPRENEURIAL and international spirit is blowing away the cobwebs of tradition in Paris. Once content to be the capital of France and of a colonial empire, it now aspires to be the center, if not the capital, of a powerful, unified Europe. This new vigor expresses itself in dozens of ways, among them the expansive mergers and acquisitions of many French companies and the emergence of a new generation of entrepreneurs and chief executives who think in European and global terms.

Getting Around

Paris has one of the best rapid-transit systems in Europe, perhaps in the world. At any Métro station you can buy *carnets* of 10 tickets valid within the Paris area on subway and RER (the suburban system) trains and on buses. Maps of routes are free.

Taxis are hard to find in rush hours. Tip about 10 percent of the fare shown on the meter. Most drivers will take only three passengers.

At a Glance

The Seine flows sinuously through Paris, dividing it into left and right banks. On the Rive Gauche – the Left Bank – are the Latin Quarter, the Sorbonne University, the National Assembly and Senate, government ministries, wide boulevards, a maze of narrow, winding streets and the Eiffel Tower.

The Rive Droite – the Right Bank – is dominated by the Avenue des Champs-Elysées, with the Place de la Concorde at one end and the Arc de Triomphe at the other.

Paris is divided into 20 *arrondissements*, or administrative districts.

In a Word

While most French people are almost inordinately proud of their mother tongue, a surprising number now speak English or are making an effort to learn it.

Wining & Dining

You can eat a bad meal in Paris. You can also eat an overpriced meal. But you'll have to be exceptionally unlucky to suffer both flaws at the same time. For all the places listed below, a reservation is necessary – at some, essential.

Do not tip in bars and restaurants unless you are really impressed. Then leave some small change. The check always includes a 15 percent service charge, noted as *service compris*.

L'Ambroisie, 9, place des Vosges, 4th. Tel.: 42 78 51 45. Sumptuous decor and food on the beautiful Place des Vosges. Noted for fish and seafood.

Benoît, 20, rue St. Martin, 4th. Tel.: 42 72 25 76. This pretty, traditional bistro dates back to the early years of the century. One food critic called it the Rolls-Royce of bistros. Foie gras and cassoulet are specialties.

Bofinger, 5, rue de la Bastille, 4th. Tel.: 42 72 87 82. The oldest brasserie in Paris, with marvelous Belle Epoque decor. Near the new Opera House. Noted for its shellfish and sauerkraut.

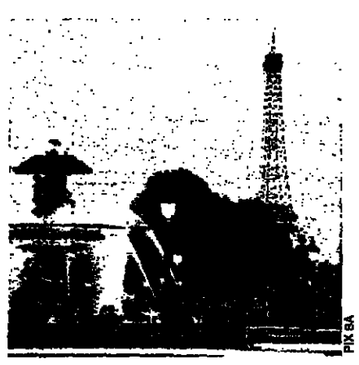
La Cantine des Gourmets, 113, av. de la Bourdonnais, 7th. Tel.: 47 05 47 96. A quiet, elegant restaurant. The kitchen stresses fish and herbs, but there's much else to tempt.

Chiberta, 3, rue Arsène-Houssaye, 8th. Tel.: 45 63 77 90. Elegant, modern decor; pleasant, smiling service; menu emphasizes southwestern Basque dishes. Specialties include ravioli dishes, beautifully prepared cod and calf's kidneys.

Le Divellec, 107, rue de l'Université, 7th. Tel.: 45 51 91 96. You can hardly open a Parisian newspaper without reading of the high and mighty dining here. All are concentrating on the fish – brill with champagne sauce, scallops and several dozen other marine offerings. Lunch prices double in the evening.

Fouquet's, 99, av. des Champs-Elysées, 8th. Tel.: 47 23 70 60. Right on the corner of the Champs-Elysées and the Avenue George V, Fouquet's is a landmark – Winston Churchill ate here.

Le Grand Véfour, 17, rue de Beaujolais, 1st. Tel.: 42 96 56 27. Some people swear that this is the best restaurant in Paris; others argue that it



PIX SEA

is overpriced and overrated. We think it lies somewhere between those extremes. It has the charm for special occasions and a lavish 18th-century decor.

Guy Savoy, 18, rue Troyon, 17th. Tel.: 43 80 40 61. Now one of the most renowned restaurants in the city. Foie gras, oysters in aspic, Bresse chicken or grilled pigeon prepare the way for a paradise of desserts.

Joël Robuchon, 59, avenue Raymond Poincaré, 16h. Tel.: 47 27 12 27. Joël Robuchon has been hoisted to the summit of culinary fame. Just reward for a great chef and pleasant, modest fellow. His lamb is exquisite, but he brings out the best in the humblest ingredient. Hence his triumph with the *purée de pommes de terre*, which elevates the potato to new status. Book months in advance.

Jules Verne, second floor, Eiffel Tower, 7th. Tel.: 45 55 61 44. Reserve well ahead of time: This restaurant has a deserved reputation for excellence and one of the best views of Paris.

Lasserre, 17, avenue Franklin D. Roosevelt, 8th. Tel.: 43 59 53 43. Stars of the theater, screen and politics favor Lasserre, where people strut while sitting down. More serious customers are also there for the food, for which there's only one word: *magnifique!*

Laurent, 41, avenue Gabriel, 8th. Tel.: 42 25 00 39. This famous restaurant is set in a garden. The cuisine is of the highest classical standards.

Lucas-Carton, 9, place de la Madeleine, 8th. Tel.: 42 65 22 90. Lucas-Carton perpetuates French gastronomic traditions even though it is now Japanese-owned. The wine cellar is exceptional – but check the prices first.

Maison Blanche, 15, avenue Montaigne, 8th. Tel.: 47 23 55 99. The clientele is fashionable and the decor modern. The cooking brings out the flavors of southwestern France and Provence.

Maxim's, 3, rue Royale, 8th. Tel.: 42 65 27 94. This famous eatery has had its ups and downs recently. The decor is as good as ever. Eating fashion has swung to lunchtime.

Le Petit Montmorency, 26, rue Jean-Mermoz, 8th. Tel.: 42 25 11 19. A favorite with international business executives, who appreciate its quiet atmosphere, personalized service and excellent fare. There's a "gourmet in a hurry" menu at lunchtime.

Pharamond, 24, rue de la Grande-Truanderie, 1st. Tel.: 42 33 06 72. This restaurant is some 135 years old. It retains its colored tiles and woodwork and serves, among other succulent dishes, tripe with a touch of Calvados. It's piece of Normandy in the old "belly" of Paris.

La Rôtisserie du Beaujolais, 19, quai de la Tournelle, 5th. Tel.: 43 54 17 47. Claude Terrail has opened this Lyonnais-style bistro near his famed Tour d'Argent. It has many of the dishes associated with France's second city, notably hot *saucisson, coq au vin de Beaujolais* and excellent salads.

La Sologne, 164, av. Daumesnil, 12th. Tel.: 43 44 66 23. Specializes in game: birds, hares, rabbits and wild boar. Sauces are subtle.

Taillevent, 15, rue Lamennais, 8th. Tel.: 44 95 15 01. Don't look for mere cooking here, look for culinary art. You had better reserve before leaving home, for the widely spaced tables are nearly always full. Louis XVI furnishings add elegance to this 19th-century mansion.

La Tour d'Argent, 15, quai Tournelle, 5th. Tel.: 43 54 23 31. Claude Terrail runs this famous establishment high over the Seine with friendliness and good humor. Duck is the celebrated specialty. Waiters are friendly and patient.

Le Train Bleu, Gare de Lyon (first floor), 20, bd. Diderot, 12th. Tel.: 43 43 09 06. The Belle Epoque decor is dazzling. The restaurant was designed for the Paris Exposition of 1901. The food? Ah, the food! Yes.

Calling Around

Country code: 33. City code: 1. Telecoms are good. To phone the provinces from Paris, first dial 16. A Télécarte, sold at tobacco shops and post offices, is necessary for calling from public phone booths.

- Ambulance: 15.
- Fire: 18.
- Police : 17.
- American Hospital: 46 41 25 25.
- SOS Dentist: 43 37 51 00.
- SOS Doctor: 47 07 77 77.
- Taxis Bleus: 49 36 10 10.

Excerpted from the "International Herald Tribune Guide to Europe" (third edition, NTC Publishing) by Alan Tillier and Roger Beardwood.

"BUSINESS TRAVEL WITH ITT SHERATON" *was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune.*
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: *Bill Mahder.*

Next City

BRUSSELS

ITT Sheraton Cures the Airport Blues

FEW PEOPLE STAY AT AN airport hotel just for the pleasure of it, but all that may change since the Feb. 16 opening of the new Sheraton Paris Airport Hotel Charles de Gaulle.

What makes this airport hotel different from all other airport hotels? First, the hotel is located right in Terminal 2 of Roissy-Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, sparing harried travelers the trouble of finding transport to the hotel. For those making train or subway connections, the stations are located just one level below the hotel.

Of course, the 256 rooms and suites of the hotel offer all the comforts and luxuries ITT Sheraton is known for the world over. A full range of facilities is available for traveling businesspeople, who have at their disposal four small meeting rooms, a conference room accommodating up to 40 people and equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual and videoconferencing equipment, and a fully equipped business center.

For relaxation and restoration, the hotel offers a fitness center with separate saunas for men and women, one 100-seat restaurant and two smaller ones, one of which specializes in gourmet dining.

What makes this hotel really special, however, is not just the impressive physical amenities but also the truly exceptional services. These include butler service on the executive floors, lounges for all guests, massage chairs to soothe away fatigue and aches and pains, and overnight laundry service that provides guests with spanking-clean, sharply pressed garments first thing in the morning, a real boon for those traveling on business.

As if that were not enough, ITT Sheraton has created a special package of services, called the ITT Sheraton Airport Hotels Program, that is specifically designed to cure the travel blues.

The Day Break Service allows guests who are in between flights to book a room for just a few hours to catch a nap or enjoy a relaxing bath before jetting off to the next destination. No more agonizing waits in uncomfortable airport lounges or overspending in duty-free shops during airport downtime.

ITT Sheraton's Transit Survival Kit eliminates the need to rummage through suitcases or go without necessary toilet articles during stopovers. It includes a toothbrush, T-shirt, face cream, razor, deodorant, mouthwash, slippers, comb and brush, and other useful items.

The four-hour laundry and pressing service is available day and night. Other services include complimentary hotel-airport transfers, reconfirmation of flights, coffee and tea machines, coffee at the reception desk for those checking out early, and luggage storage.

Perhaps the most innovative part of this service program is the Body Clock Cuisine: dishes that are specially designed to help travelers adjust to new time zones and overcome flight fatigue.

Sheraton Paris Airport Hotel Charles de Gaulle: Tel.: (33-1) 49 19 70 70. Fax: (33-1) 49 19 70 71.

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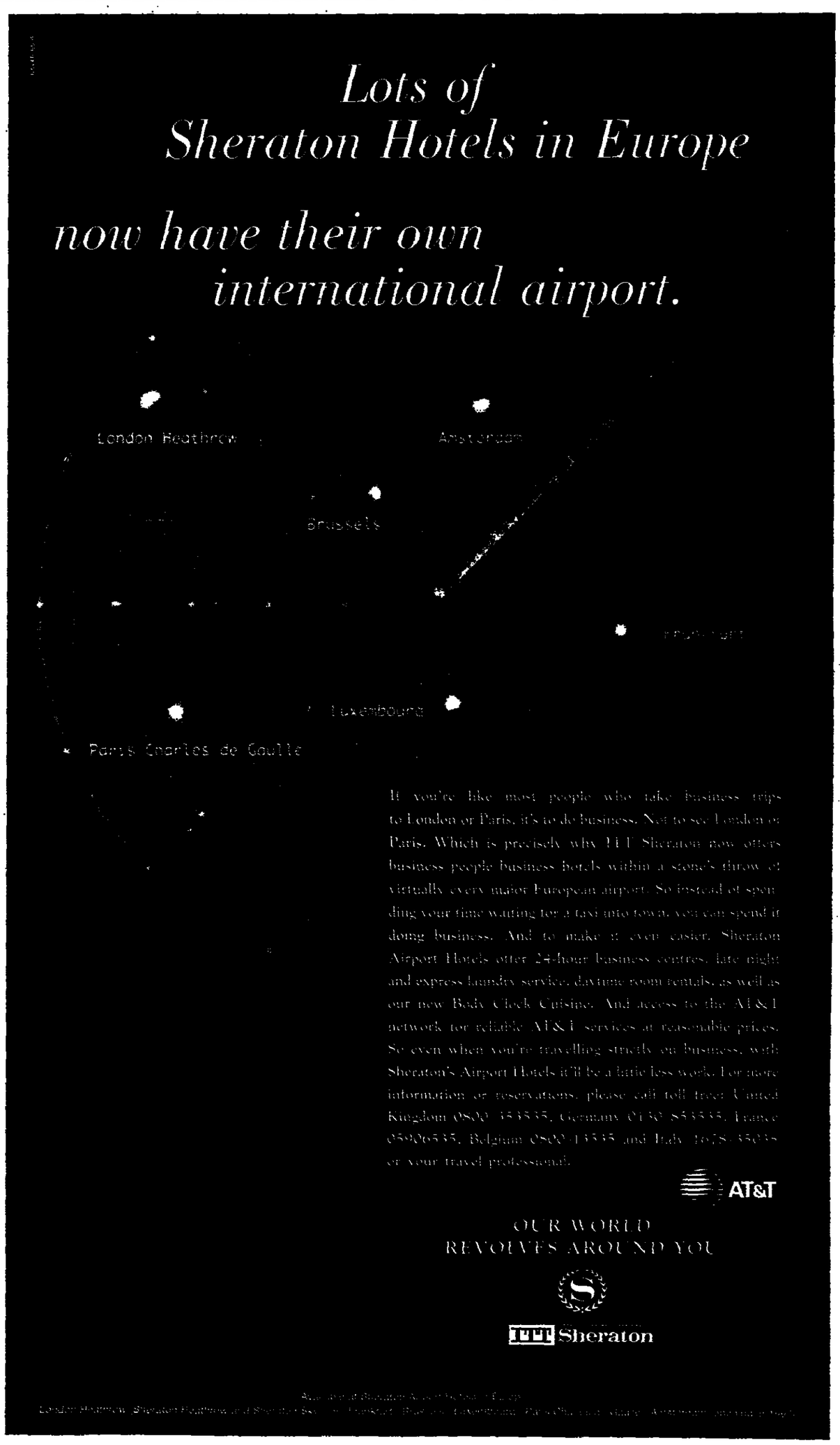

If you're like most people who take business trips to London or Paris, it's to do business. Not to see London or Paris. Which is precisely why ITT Sheraton now offers business people business hotels within a stone's throw of virtually every major European airport. So instead of spending your time waiting for a taxi into town, you can spend it doing business. And to make it even easier, Sheraton Airport Hotels offer 24-hour business centres, late night and express laundry service, daytime room rentals, as well as our new Body Clock Cuisine. And access to the AT&T network for reliable AT&T services at reasonable prices. So even when you're travelling strictly on business, with Sheraton's Airport Hotels it'll be a little less work. For more information or reservations, please call toll free: United Kingdom 0800 353535, Germany 0130 855555, France 05906535, Belgium 0800 13535 and Italy 1678 35035 or your travel professional.

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INTERNATIONAL

In Ethiopia, the Time of Reckoning (and With It, Cries for Blood)

By James McKinley Jr.
New York Times Service

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — As the leaders of the Marxist government that once held Ethiopia in an iron grip filed quietly into court, Hiwet Teklu could barely stand to look at them from her seat in the back of the cavernous room.

They were once the most powerful men in the country. They were also, she believes, her son's killers.

Mrs. Teklu's son, Samson Allem, was a 22-year-old student in 1978 when the Red Terror, as the wave of political killings was known here, was under way. Like thousands of other students involved in a pro-democracy movement, he was imprisoned by communist militiamen, tortured for 15 days and then shot to death, Mrs. Teklu said.

The next morning, his body was dumped near his mother's front door. A hand-lettered sign pinned to his chest said, "Red Terror."

"These people are luckier than our sons and daughters," the 56-year-old merchant said outside court. "They are getting a fair trial."

After more than a year of delays and legal warmups, prosecutors finally began presenting witnesses this month in the trial of the Derg, the leftist military junta that overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974 and ruled with Stalinist tactics until 1991, when it was driven from power by rebels from the northern province of Tigre.

The trial, the first of several, marks the start of what promises to be the most extensive judgment of war crimes since the Nuremberg trial of Germans after World War II.

In the dock are 46 military leaders of the former government. They stand accused not only of the murder of individuals, but also of genocide and crimes against humanity. A total of 22 others are being tried in absentia, including former President Mengistu Haile Mariam, who fled into exile in Zimbabwe, which has refused to extradite him. All face the death penalty if convicted.

For the new government, the trial also represents a chance to break Ethiopia's long tradition of autocracy — whether imperial or Marxist. Officials here have argued that the only way to establish the rule of law and to end the cycle of coup and revolution is to hold former government officials responsible for the political killings at an open trial.

"I think it is high time for Ethiopia to really break away from the past and to think in terms of democracy and the rule of law," said Girma Wakjira, the chief special prosecutor. "In Ethiopia, we used to have a saying: 'You can't plow the sky any more than you can accuse or try the king.'

"There is now a clear message to the government — past, present or future — that governments should be accountable to the people and answerable before the law."

Mr. Wakjira said the task of presenting evidence was enormous and the trial, which began proceedings in December 1994, could last years.

In addition to the 71 high-ranking junta members charged in the first indictment, about 1,700 people are awaiting trial — some 800 policemen, soldiers and mid-level administrators and about 900 members of local "revolutionary guards" who carried out many of the killings.

The prosecution plans to call at least 100 witnesses in the first trial. But the main evidence is documentary. An efficient bureaucracy, the junta and its regional subcommittees kept meticulous records of every meeting. The notes detail deliberations among officials about who was to be killed, imprisoned or tortured. There are even records of how many bullets were used on each victim.

Prosecutors say they have hard evidence of at least 1,907 killings, as well as the torture of 99 other people and the disappearance of 193.

Though the killings began right after the coup and lasted until the final days of the junta in May 1991, the majority of the killings took place during a reign of terror from 1976 to 1980.

Besides members of the royal family and government officials, most of the victims were college students who belonged to the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party, an opposition group.

No one knows how many people were killed. The deaths began in 1974 with the ouster of Haile Selassie and the killing of scores of government officials and nobility. The emperor was strangled in 1975 while he was under house arrest.

In Addis Ababa alone, a victims-rights group has registered at least 10,000 victims and estimate that the actual death toll is five times higher.

The men on trial were young army officers when they took power, but many are now graying men in their 50s and 60s, looking subdued and tired. Among them are the former prime minister, Captain Fireselassie Wegderes, 49; the former vice president, Lieutenant Colonel Fisseha Desta, 53, and the former chief of internal security, Colonel Teka Telu.

Also on trial are Captain Legesse Asfaw, known as "the butcher of Tigre" for his bombing of villages in that province, and Major Melaku Teferra, who mounted scorched-earth campaigns in Gondar.

The first witness called this month was Teshome Gebremariam, a former attorney general and minister in the emperor's government who was imprisoned for seven years by the junta.

For the prosecution, Mr. Gebremariam testified that after he was taken into custody in November 1974, he was imprisoned in the cellar of the Grand Palace with scores of other officials, nobles, dignitaries and supporters of the emperor. The Derg was running the government upstairs, he said.

The next day, he said, he saw 47 high-ranking officials led away in the middle of the night. He was later told by a Derg official that they had been executed. As Mr. Gebremariam recited the names of the prisoners he saw led away to their deaths, many people in the audience started sobbing, witnesses said. The men in the dock, however, showed no emotion.

Defense lawyers tried to poke holes in the testimony. They labored to demonstrate that he did not know many of the defendants personally and could not say what role they played in the fate of the 47 people he saw led away.

Every day of the trial, the courtroom is filled with relatives of the victims. One of them is Kebede Admassie, a 76-year-old hospital worker from Addis Ababa. He and his wife, Buzunish Demessie, lost three children during the Red Terror, he said.

Asked what satisfaction he hoped to get from attending the trial, Mr. Admassie, his eyes welling up with tears, said: "Blood. What I want is blood. Blood must be answered with blood."

Rogue General Says He'll Be Paraguay's Defense Chief

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ASUNCION, Paraguay — After a standoff that threatened the fledgling democratic regime in Paraguay, the country's army chief said Tuesday that he would give up his command and become defense minister instead.

The government did not immediately confirm statements made by General Lino Oviedo at the army post where he sought refuge Monday after being dismissed for insubordination by President Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

But Milciades Gonzáles Casabianca, the Senate president, told Radio Cardinal that Mr. Wasmosy had told him about the agreement. Guillermo Caballero Vargas, leader of the opposition coalition National Encounter, also said Mr. Wasmosy had told him that the general would become defense minister. "The Defense Ministry had to enter into negotiations to allow Oviedo to take over as minister," he said. "This has taken us by surprise, and the president will now have to explain himself to the people."

General Oviedo said he would wait for "my great friend Juan Carlos Wasmosy" at the barracks and hand over his command to General Oscar Diaz Delmas on Tuesday afternoon. "Don't worry about me," he said, "because tomorrow I will be in the presidential palace swearing in as defense minister."

Mr. Wasmosy, Paraguay's first democratically elected leader in nearly 50 years, asked the general to resign Monday, accusing him of violating a constitutional ban on military participation in politics. The general, who hopes to be a candidate to succeed Mr. Wasmosy in 1998, refused and went to the First Army Corps headquarters, prompting the president to fire him for insubordination and name General Delmas as his replacement.

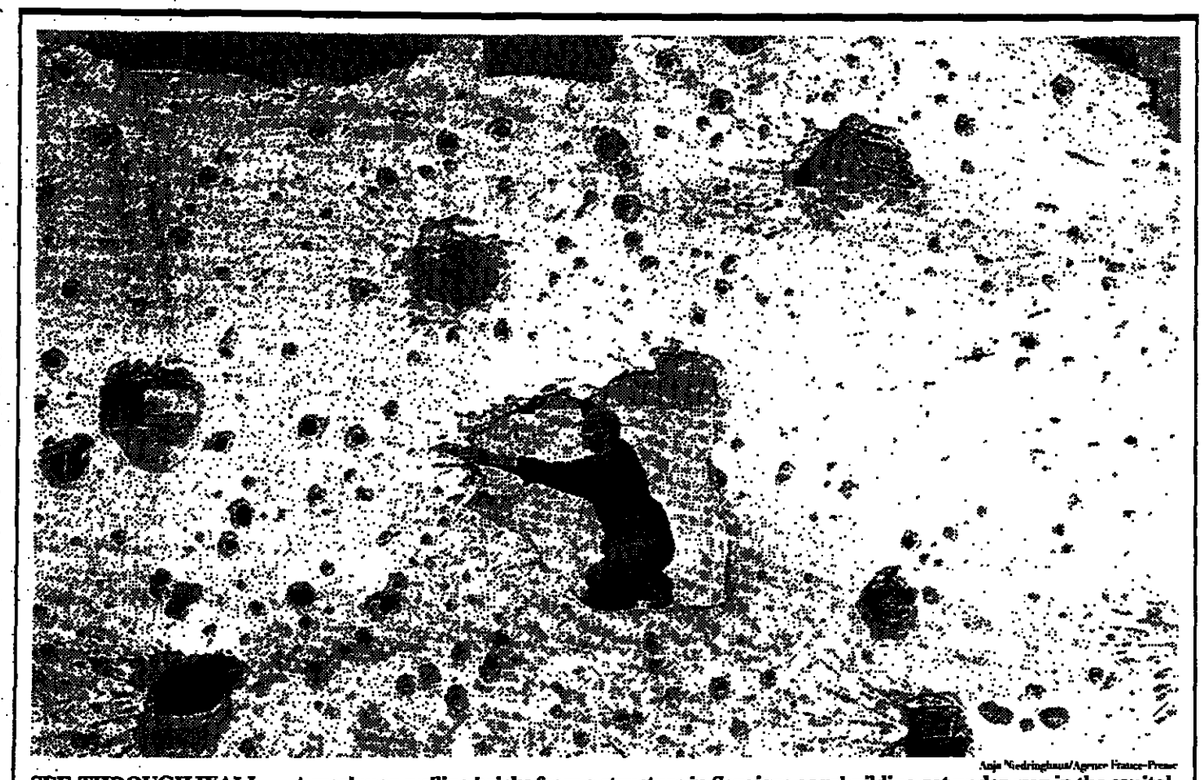
The confrontation sparked fear of a military coup in this country of 5.3 million, which has been ruled by the military for most of the years since obtaining independence from Spain in 1811.

Support for the Wasmosy government poured in from foreign governments and international organizations. President Bill Clinton called Mr. Wasmosy to express his support, according to the White House. A spokesman said the purpose of the call had been to assure him "that the United States and all the hemisphere's democracies stood behind him."

César Gaviria Trujillo, the secretary-general of the Organization of American States, arrived in Asunción on Tuesday.

"Under no circumstances will President Wasmosy stop being president until his mandate is over," he said.

(AP, AFP, Reuters)



Anja Niedringhaus/Agence France-Presse

SEE-THROUGH WALL — A workman pulling bricks from a structure in Sarajevo as rebuilding got under way in the capital.

Virgin Chief Is Sued For Sex Harassment

Reuters

NEW YORK — A former public relations manager for Virgin Atlantic Airways has sued the airline's chief executive, Richard Branson, for sexual harassment, charging, among other things, that he grabbed her breasts in front of other employees.

The suit, filed Friday in federal court in Manhattan, also accused the airline and another executive of discrimination that led to her dismissal in July 1995.

Mr. Branson, in New York, said Tuesday that he expected the suit to be thrown out by the court within two months.

Elizabeth Hlinko of New York is seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, back pay and reinstatement. If the airline does not rehire her, Ms. Hlinko has asked the court to order it to pay her future wages, pension bonuses and other lost benefits.

Ms. Hlinko, who was hired as manager of the airline's public relations office in 1992, contends that problems began in 1994 when another defendant in the case, David Tait, executive vice president of Virgin, began harassing her and publicly ridiculing her.

She further charged that during a press event at Mr. Branson's estate in 1994, Mr. Branson made unwelcome sexual advances by fondling and grabbing her breasts in front of other employees and guests.

Mr. Branson said: "To allege something happened when my wife was present, my parents were present and a lot of the world's press were present . . . it has taken her a long time to come forward about it."

Mr. Branson said the company was not going to make any payments to the woman. "As far as we are concerned the incident did not happen," he said.

SURVEY: *Bosses Beware, Employees Are Having Their Say*

Continued from Page 1

paring for its third survey in four years of all 20,000 of its employees around the world. It not only publishes the results in its in-house paper, but also folds in management's pledges about what it intends to do to set right whatever the employees believe has gone wrong.

"It is not always easy to do because many times you would be happier just to sweep some of the findings under the carpet," said Bob Nelson, the BBC's head of organization and management development.

In fact, the cardinal rule of employee surveys is that the results — no matter how dire — must see the light of day, if for no other reason than employees will simply assume the worst if they are not published.

The results of a recent staff poll at the Bank of England, for instance, must have sorely tested management's desire for open communications. The survey revealed that 96 percent of the staff ranked morale as poor.

Despite being the bearers of such prickly findings, pollsters say the sudden vogue for their services and the rafts of data they deliver reflect a number of trends.

First, they note that as personnel officers have been increasingly recast in the weightier mold of human resource managers, the need to monitor and to quantify swings in employee sentiment has grown. Just as a treasurer needs his cash flow projections, the human resources supervisor needs poll readouts.

Also, as companies place more emphasis on providing quality products and services — not just cheap ones — they have realized that unhappy workers are more likely to churn out shoddy goods. It is that linkage that has elevated employee satisfaction readings to the point where many companies now use them as an element in reviewing the performance of all their managers, right up to the chief executive.

The bottom line is that the quantification of employee attitudes has given them more weight. In the past the brave manager who told his board that morale was bad might have been dismissed as a naysayer.

"But if they can say only 29 percent of the staff is happy, that is something that the board would be far more inclined to take seriously," said Keith Mainland, a consultant in the employee survey division of Towers Perrin.

A Worldwide Test Ban? Not Yet, Beijing Says

Reuters

BEIJING — China, in its first response to the Moscow summit meeting call last week for a global ban on atomic tests, said it was not yet time to close the door on the use of "peaceful" nuclear explosions.

"We believe nuclear explosions are one of the ways mankind makes peaceful use of nuclear energy," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"In fact, experts on nuclear matters still have differing views on this matter," he said. "Therefore, we believe that the door to nuclear explosions should not be closed, at least for now."

Beijing has resisted intense pressure to join an international testing moratorium, saying its 43 tests to date were a fraction of those carried out by the four other nuclear powers — the United States, France, Britain and Russia.

In January, China said it would halt its underground nuclear blasts only when a global test ban treaty takes effect.

Beijing's declaration came after France called a halt to its nuclear test program in the South Pacific that it had resumed late last year to widespread international condemnation.

China is believed to have plans for at least two tests in 1996.

It generally conducts the explosions during suitable weather from May to June or September to October at its Lop Nor test site in the sparsely populated northwestern region of Xinjiang.

The spokesman declined to comment on whether the issue of China's role in international nuclear nonproliferation would be raised when President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia meets President Jiang Zemin on the first day of a three-day visit on Wednesday.

At the meeting of world leaders in Moscow last week on nuclear safety, Russia for the first time formally backed a global ban on all nuclear tests.

The Russian move lent support to Western partners in consultations aimed at completing a test ban treaty later this year.

Mr. Yeltsin said, however, that Russia reserved the right to resume nuclear tests and to leave a future treaty if its supreme interests were threatened.

ITALY: *Election Marks a Step Toward the Two-Party System*

Continued from Page 1

liament, and politicians built consensus on expanding patronage, sustained it by spending on pet projects of political allies and greased the whole system with not a little corruption.

Deals were hatched after the elections, and voters who might have thought they were getting one set of leaders with one set of policies, soon found they were getting something else. Governments rose and fell at the whim of small factions; the players stayed virtually the same over decades, only the waste and inefficiencies grew.

This election, which many observers predicted would mean nothing and result in a hung Parliament, produced both an air of impending change and a victor.

"Some may not think it wise, but Italy has entered the majority-rule system, in spite of defects in the electoral" rules, wrote Paolo Mieli, the editor of Corriere Della Sera, Italy's biggest-selling newspaper. "Or better yet, the citizen-electors have entered into the spirit of that system."

The election was Italy's second in two years, a sign of the difficulties in making a journey from partitocrazia to something else. Mr. Berlusconi, the owner of a media conglomerate, won the last vote, but his coalition collapsed in seven months.

Much has been made of the fact that as a result of Sunday's election, former Communists in the Democratic Party of the Left, the biggest branch of the Olive Tree, will for the first time share in power. Some observers regard this as less important than the fact that power simply changed hands.

Still missing from the mix is the creation of a system that will increase the chances that a newly elected government can complete a full five-year term in office. Because the Olive Tree depends on Marxists from the Communist Refoundation party, few are giving it a chance to stay in power through the end of the century.

The Olive Tree and the Communists made an alliance of convenience that was necessary because of the unpredictability of a system in which 75 percent of the seats are won and lost based on head-to-head competition in voting districts, while the other 25 percent of the seats are doled out according to the percentage of the vote won by each party. In effect, the Olive Tree leaders bet that it would need the Communists, and they were right.

To avoid such tangles, Massimo D'Alema, the leader of the Democratic Party of the Left, wants to install a fully winner-take-all system of head-to-head competitions in voting districts.

The Communist leader, Fausto Bertinotti said that his party will help give birth to the new Prodi government, without conditions, but after that, its votes will be cast purely on a case-by-case basis.

Chechen Leader Killed in Attack, Russians Report

Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — The official Russian press agency Itar-Tass reported Tuesday that the Chechen separatist leader, Dzhokar Dudayev, was killed early Sunday by a Russian missile attack. The report quoted a statement brought to the agency by a Chechen official.

The report could not be confirmed and was disputed by others. In the hours after the report was broadcast, Mr. Dudayev made no public appearances.

Tass said it received the announcement from Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, a former peace negotiator for Mr. Dudayev, who told the agency: "Dudayev is dead. There is no doubt about it."

Mr. Yarikhanov claimed to have seen Mr. Dudayev's body, Tass said. He said the Chechen leader had been killed in the village of Gekhi-Chu, 30 kilometers southwest of Grozny, after being wounded in a Russian missile attack.

He said Mr. Dudayev had been talking on a satellite telephone at the time the rockets hit, and that several members of his entourage were also killed.

But the Interfax news agency later quoted Mr. Dudayev's personal secretary, Saipudi Khasanov, as saying that Mr. Dudayev, 52, "is alive and working as usual."

MIDEAST: *Christopher in Damascus, but Assad Isn't Available*

Continued from Page 1

knowledged that Mr. Assad's behavior was difficult, but said heatedly: "We have a special responsibility in the Middle East, and it's in the American national interest to have peace there. We want to bring peace to both sides of the border, and then a lasting peace. There can't be a comprehensive peace without Syria, and Damascus is the address. You can say, 'fine,' and walk away from Assad, and be prepared to have the situation escalate as it was doing, and we're not prepared to walk away."

U.S. officials said that Syrian officials gave them a variety of explanations for Mr. Assad's decision to postpone the meeting. The main reason cited, said Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, was that the Americans arrived late in what the Syrians told them would be a "narrow window" in which to meet, before Mr. Assad's schedule began with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The 13th day of the fighting over Lebanon opened with Hezbollah guerrillas firing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel. An army spokesman said two people were slightly wounded, bringing to 54 the number of Israelis wounded in Katyusha attacks.

United Nations peacekeepers said Israeli gunners fired 1,000 shells into southern Lebanon in 12 hours and warplanes launched 12 or 13 air strikes at southern towns and villages and suspected guerrilla targets.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah hit back by launching 55 Katyusha rockets in a dozen volleys, a UN spokesman said. More than half the rockets crossed the border into Israel, he said.

As Mr. Christopher shuttled, so did the French foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, who was in Damascus. Mr. Peres is refusing to negotiate with Mr. de Charette, although his aides meet with him. And he and Mr. Christopher have met and telephoned each other to exchange ideas. "The French are talking to people, but not negotiating," a senior U.S. official said. "A negotiating channel requires addresses in two places."

The Americans publicly refuse to describe the French effort as annoying. But privately, they are dismissive, saying that only one peace plan is on the table and being negotiated by Syria and Israel.

The French effort has also been criticized by other European diplomats as a form of Gallic grandstanding. After President Jacques Chirac assigned Mr. de Charette to try to find a cease-fire, the Italian foreign minister, Susanna Agnelli, whose country is the current president of the European Union, quickly put together an EU team to do its own shuttling. The diplomats said that in an EU that is supposed to have a unified foreign policy, the French effort raised Italian hackles.

YELTSIN: *Asians Cast Wary Eye on Visit*

Continued from Page 1

Dibb, head of the Strategic and Defense Studies Center at the Australian National University in Canberra. "Such an outcome would be disastrous for peace and for the balance of power in Asia."

Chinese officials said that in Shanghai on Friday, President Jiang Zemin of China, Mr. Yeltsin and leaders of three central Asian states that were part of the former Soviet Union — Kazakhstan, Kyrgysztan and Tajikistan — would sign a treaty pledging peace along their common borders, the subject of conflict and controversy for many years.

The treaty stipulates that military forces of the five countries will not attack each other, will not conduct exercises aimed at each other, will inform each other of the scope of any exercises and will establish friendly ties, Reuters reported Tuesday from Shanghai.

Relations with Beijing improved in the late 1980s when Moscow showed it was ready to negotiate a settlement of border disputes and other issues.

Russia now sees China as an important political partner to counterbalance the West, as well as a major market for arms and civilian products.

For the first time since the 1950s, China and Russia have better relations with each other than either has with the United States, noted Peter W. Rodman, a former State Department official who directs national security programs at the Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom.

As a result, the United States has lost the "pivotal position and leverage" it used during the Cold War to play Moscow and Beijing against each other, he said.

LEBANON: *Shooting Gallery on Coast*

Continued from Page 1

make their way south appeared to be civilians like Zein Kleib, who owns a construction company and recently moved back to Lebanon after 12 years in California.

Mr. Kleib, 35, arrived in his blue Range Rover, determined to run the gantlet of fire in order to inspect his home, which is a few kilometers to the south and was damaged by shelling Saturday.

But when an Israeli shell exploded in a fountain of smoke and flame just meters from his vehicle, Mr. Kleib said, he quickly thought better of his plan. "I want to live to be 70," he said, calming his nerves over a cup of Turkish coffee on a friend's terrace.

Because of the threat to traffic on the road, UN relief workers have held back commercial trucks carrying food to distribution points in the south, according to a UN spokesman, Mikael Lindvall.

The shelling of the road, which has wounded several people and caused a number of accidents over the last several days, also disrupted plans by Lebanese dignitaries to lead a pilgrimage to Qana, where Israeli shelling killed more than 100 refugees last week.

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

End This Crisis Now

It is mischievous of Russia, France and Italy, not to mention Iran, to be running around the Middle East tossing in proposals for the crisis in Lebanon. Inevitably their several plans and purposes are diluting what should be a common focus on a single plan. Not that all diplomatic genius and political legitimacy reside in Washington. But the United States, by its preferred access to the state parties and by its well-earned primacy in leading regionwide peace efforts, is the country best situated to end this crisis now.

Everyone wants a cease-fire. The differences are over terms. The American approach centers on improving the flawed arrangements of 1993 by which Israelis and Hezbollah undertook not to fire at each other's civilians. The improvements would broaden these cease-fire commitments, make them written and require their enforcement by Lebanon and especially by Syria. Further, Washington backs Israel in leaving an Israeli presence in southern Lebanon as a card for Israel's later play in peace talks with Syria.

The Russians and French suggest what turn out to be looser cease-fire arrangements. They would ask Israel to give up its southern Lebanon presence now for a promise of quiet in northern Israel, rather than preserving that presence for negotiation with Syria over return of the Golan Heights. They would draw Iran, Hezbollah's ideological sponsor and America's bane, into the Lebanon circle.

The immediate negotiating prospect is not cheering. Syria's master of cynicism, Hafez Assad, blew up the fire by reportedly allowing some 900 rockets to be trucked in to Hezbollah from Iran, and is now enjoying being cultivated by one foreign minister after another. Hezbollah is basking in the glow generated by its successful defiance of Israel's military might and by the opprobrium flowing to Jerusalem on account of its ferocious and continuing retaliatory bombardments hitting civilian targets up and down Lebanon. Israel heads toward May elections that inevitably will be shadowed by recriminations over this latest of Lebanon penetrations gone deeply awry.

In the circumstances, the United States should get the shooting closed down promptly and with as little damage to future diplomacy as possible, and pick up with the winners of Israel's elections next month. A peace treaty between Syria, which with general Western approval "protects" and occupies most of Lebanon, and Israel becomes more necessary than ever.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Politicking in Moscow

Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin proved again over the weekend that it is impossible to separate diplomacy from domestic politics, especially in an election year. In a series of stage-managed meetings in Moscow, the two presidents nudged relations a bit closer, but left a queasy feeling that they were both shaving differences to give the other a political assist.

Mr. Clinton's visit produced some accomplishments, particularly the commitment of the United States, Russia and six other nations to seek completion by September of a treaty banning all nuclear tests. Mr. Clinton deserves credit for championing this issue. The main obstacle to a treaty is now China, which stubbornly insists on preserving its right to conduct "peaceful" nuclear explosions.

Mr. Clinton, Mr. Yeltsin and the leaders of Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada also agreed to share intelligence and take other steps to improve the coordination of international efforts to prevent the smuggling of nuclear materials. Mr. Yeltsin seemed to recognize that the security of Russian plutonium, enriched uranium and other bomb-making materials remains questionable. He promised that Russia would stop dumping nuclear waste in the ocean.

The leaders, however, settled for no change in Ukraine's belated plans for shutting down the Chernobyl nuclear power station by the year 2000. Two reactors similar to the one that exploded there 10 years ago remain in operation at the same site, posing the threat of another catastrophe.

Mr. Yeltsin rebuffed suggestions that Russia move more quickly to shut down its own Chernobyl-style reactors, which may be equally risky.

When the stage was left to Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin, political self-interest was not to be denied. Mr. Yeltsin, weakened by a heart ailment, obviously savored the summitry, taking every opportunity as host to remind Russians that he was a world leader on equal terms with Mr. Clinton, whom he frequently called his friend Bill. Mr. Clinton, while scrupulously avoiding any explicit endorsement of Mr. Yeltsin, made clear his regard for the Russian president.

In the process, he sacrificed a chance to criticize the Chechen war, which Mr. Yeltsin once again mistakenly declared to be at an end. Instead, Mr. Clinton rallied to Mr. Yeltsin's defense, offering a lame analogy to Abraham Lincoln's efforts to hold the United States together in the Civil War. While the principles of national unity and territorial integrity seemed reasonable justifications when Russian forces first marched into Chechnya to suppress secessionist rebels 16 months ago, the brutality of the Russian assault has long since undermined those claims, even among Russians.

Mr. Clinton's meeting with other politicians, including Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist presidential candidate, was marred by the graceless exclusion of Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr. Gorbachev, a long-shot presidential candidate, was apparently left out because Mr. Yeltsin despises him. The White House betrayed a poor sense of history by slighting Mr. Gorbachev.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin have now held 10 meetings since Mr. Clinton became president in 1993, usually improving relations and reducing military threats each time they talked. They made some modest additions to that record this time, but could not disguise their other purpose. It was to ensure that they have the chance to get together again next year as second-term presidents.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Big Cities, Big Problems

Twenty years ago about 1.5 billion people lived in cities. Today 2.6 billion do. Thirty years from now more than 5 billion of the world's 8 billion people likely will be city dwellers. Sometime around the end of this century, more than half of the world's population will live in cities for the first time. This poses formidable challenges in health care and the environment.

The United Nations holds a conference on urbanization this June in Turkey. The world may be suffering from UN-conference fatigue, but a report published this week, "World Resources 1996-97: The Urban Environment," leaves no doubt as to the importance of dealing with these issues now.

The report points out that urbanization is not all bad: one reason so many people move to cities is to earn a better living. Literacy, opportunities for women, health indicators and living standards all tend to be higher in cities, on average, than in rural areas.

But the phrase "on average" is key. The urban poor in many developing countries live in squalor unlike anything they left behind, and many of their health problems, often including violence, are also new. In Caracas, more than half the total housing stock is squatter housing. In Bangkok, the regional economy is 2.1 percent smaller than it otherwise would be because of time lost in traffic jams. The megacities of the future pose huge problems for waste management, water use and climate change. In 1950 there were only two megacities of 8 million or more, London and New York. By 2015 there will be 33, 27 in the developing world.

One encouraging note, given its past inattention to environmental questions, is the World Bank's decision this year to join with UN agencies and the nonprofit World Resources Institute to publish their biennial report on the global environment. The bank's commitment to help local communities solve their environmental problems will promote what is called sustainable development — economic growth that does not come at the expense of future generations. Leaders and communities everywhere must make a similar commitment, so that the stresses of rapid urbanization don't overwhelm the benefits of city living.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

International Herald Tribune
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S.A. au capital de 1 200.000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126. Commission Paritaire No 61337
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Tell Syria to Come Back When It Wants Peace

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — Working closely together, the American and the Israeli governments have created several important and lasting results out of the fighting in Lebanon. These results, every one of them, have been damaging to the military, political and just plain human interests of all three countries.

The constant emphasis on Syrian importance by Washington and Jerusalem, their failure to hold Syria responsible for the Hezbollah rocketing of Israel, and the incessant high-level American visits to Damascus have increased the present and future political power of a major enemy of America and Israel, President Hafez Assad. They have also cemented his occupation of Lebanon and the torment of its people.

And by making a peace treaty with Syria such an overriding goal that they reward its dictator for fomenting war, they lessen the chances of stability in the Middle East.

Stability rests on peaceful relations between Israel and some Arab peoples, particularly the Palestinians, Jordanians and Egyptians. It is the only sensible goal — different from the mirage of a complete regional peace settlement that obsesses the current governments in Washington and Jerusalem.

Bill Clinton and Shimon Peres have also managed to do something that U.S. presidents and Israeli prime ministers had strenuously avoided. They opened the Middle East to the fox of political intervention by Russia, France and other countries eager for Arab contracts.

Now, to crown these achievements, the United States invites Syria to be intermediary with Iran, its partner in igniting the wars in Lebanon.

Plural — two wars are taking place in Lebanon. One is between Israel and the Hezbollah guerrillas. They started it by firing on Israeli civilians. Mr. Peres knew that he would lose the May elections if he did not respond. If the conservative Likud had been in power and retaliated so hard, Washington and other capitals would have immediately screamed for its head.

The other war, not acknowledged by Israel and the United States, is the proxy war of military and political attrition being fought against Israel by Syria, with the help of Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas they arm and command.

The Syrian victory became clear during the current wars, but its roots were planted in 1976 by Syria's occupation of Lebanon, which the world cruelly ignores. For four years, the roots have been watered by America and Israel.

After Labor won the 1992 elections, Israel and the United States took the traditional road to disaster — the empowerment, encouragement and appeasement of a dictatorial terrorist enemy nation. Israel offered Syria the Golan Heights, which previous Labor and Likud governments had warned would endanger Israeli security, in exchange for a peace treaty.

Responsibility for this turnabout rests with Labor. But the United States encouraged Jerusalem to treat Syria as a responsible peace partner — the same Syria listed as a terrorist, drug-running nation by Washington.

This strengthening of Syrian influence by Washington and Jerusalem is as damaging to their long-range Mideast interests as the surrender of the Golan. Mr. Assad accomplished what Iraqi President Saddam Hussein tried to do — occupy a neighboring country. For this the punishment was not war but respectful visits by the American president and secretary of state.

Many of my American friends who are warm to Israel bought the U.S.-Israeli fantasy that since Israelis could not stomach indefinite occupation rule over Palestinians, Israel had to have a peace treaty with Syria even at the price of the Golan. They never managed to say why it was so important. Syria is supported mostly by Arabs irredeemable in their hatred of Israel. It is loathed by Arab governments that officially or not have already made peace with Israel.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Clinton can repair the damage they have done in giving the victory in Lebanon to the Syrian dictator. They can start by going loud and public about his record: aggression in Lebanon, terrorism at home and abroad, lighting the two Lebanese wars. Then withdraw the offer of the Golan or any other bribe. Tell the Syrians to come back when they want peace and stability, not power and spoils.

The New York Times.

At Present, There's Not Much for Russia to Gain in East Asia

By Gerald Segal

LONDON — The prospects for Russia in East Asia are best described as an optimistic illusion. Who would have thought, just five years ago, that Russia might matter so little?

Russia has a population near the Pacific of only some 3 million. It is therefore unlikely to be a regional production base or a major market.

It once had impressive military force, but now has rusting hulks and a depleted force unable to subdue even Chechen rebels. All it has going for it in East Asia is vast resources. But they are expensive to exploit and transport to markets.

If Russia is to do better in the region, it has two options. The first would be to seek closer cooperation with Japan and America to obtain finance and technology for exploiting raw materials that could be exported to East Asia's booming economies. This option was much touted in the immediate aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union, but its prospects are much diminished since then.

An increasingly nationalist Russia is in no mood to contemplate territorial concessions to Japan. Powerful regional bosses in the Russian Far East are strongly opposed to territorial concessions and selling "the Russian birthright" to foreign capitalists. The dumping of Andrei Kozyrev as foreign minister indicated the extent to which pro-Western options are no longer in favor in Moscow.

The second option for Russia is to turn to the future and stress closer ties with still notionally Communist states, such as China. Mr Yeltsin, worried about criticism from Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party boss who is ahead of him in Russia's presidential race, has begun to tack in this direction in relations with Beijing.

The temptation to continue in this direction will be increased by the clear signs that the United States is drawing closer to Japan, since that encourages China to seek closer relations with Russia.

Moscow was one of the few capitals to express support for the Chinese position during the Taiwan crisis last month. Beijing will know that if it is to take on U.S. military power, it must have modern naval and air technology from Russia.

Moscow will have noticed that Bill Clinton's recent peace proposal for the Korean Peninsula provides no role for Russia — an idea unthinkable five years ago. In fact, Moscow has had no notable role in any major security, let alone economic, issue in East Asia since then.

Russia could possibly regain a spoiling role through closer cooperation with North Korea or Vietnam, but it would be likely to be of limited effect. Vietnam has turned to closer relations with Japan and the Association of South East Asian Nations, and no longer shows keen interest in Moscow. North Korea is far too much of a rogue actor to be a safe bet.

Closer ties to Beijing pose major problems for Moscow. It could join China in blocking action by the UN Security Council. It could hold up the proposed treaty banning all nuclear testing, or sell nuclear technology to Iran or Libya. But it would put at risk important benefits, including aid and investment, from the capitalist world.

China is not an economic alternative to the West. Chinese-Russian trade has fallen by nearly 40 percent in the past 18 months, partly because Russia has stopped China from flooding its markets. Russia has little, apart from military technology, to sell to China.

Russians also fear being swamped by Chinese across the frontier. As a result, Moscow has cut back on plans for visa-free travel and easier transport links with China.

For Moscow, improving relations with Beijing carries major risks. Russia would have to settle for second-class status in an East Asia that is growing more wary of Chinese intentions. By betting so heavily on China, it might find itself even more isolated from the main centers of dynamism in the region.

The writer is a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, in London, and director of Britain's Pacific Asia Program. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

A Russian-Chinese Alliance Doesn't Look Likely

By Alexei K. Pushkov

MOSCOW — The underlying question of Boris Yeltsin's long-delayed trip to Beijing is how close Russia and China can become.

Since the success of the Communists in the Russian parliamentary elections last December, the removal of some leading reformers from Mr. Yeltsin's team and the replacement of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev by Yevgeni Primakov, the possibility of a new Russian-Chinese connection has alarmed quite a few people in the West. Some U.S. observers foresee active diplomatic cooperation directed against U.S. foreign policy goals.

At first glance such fears can seem founded. There is a disappointment in Moscow with the United States, especially with regard to the planned NATO enlargement, of which the U.S. administration seems the most active proponent. There is as well a desire to put more stress on the Asiatic dimension of Russian foreign policy. With the prospect of NATO's approaching the Russian border, China appears to many in Moscow as a natural counterweight.

Besides, the Chinese way of conducting economic reforms and attracting foreign investment without letting the West influence the nature of its regime or the course of its foreign policy appeals to a wide array of leftist forces in Russia.

The Communist leader Gennadi Zyuganov, front-runner for the Russian presidency, makes no secret of his admiration for the Chinese. A Communist government would certainly be tempted to play the China card against the West if and when expansion of NATO starts.

Yet any Russian-Chinese rapprochement is subject to a number of basic restrictions, which render the chances of an alliance between the two countries close to nil.

Russia cannot provide China with what it needs most for the modernization of its economy — investments, new technologies and know-how. Neither can China offer Russia any of this. Financially, economically and technologically, both countries depend on the West and on East and Southeast Asia.

In spite of its famous rates of economic growth, China occupies 140th place in the world for per capita GNP, barely $300. It has huge social, demographic and ecological problems that cannot be solved without steady growth of its exports and further integration into the world economy. Chinese leaders understand this. They will not enter into an alliance with Russia that would give few rewards but be certain to endanger China's long-term economic prospects.

Beijing can obtain what it needs from Moscow in the framework of the present good-neighbor relationship. It has already bought 26 SU-27 jets and intends to bring that number to 50, as well as to buy related technologies. Moscow has also provided C-300 anti-aircraft missiles and diesel submarines. In Beijing, Mr. Yeltsin is to sign long-term deals for supply of Russian oil and gas, as well as electric energy, along with an agreement on cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.

True, China looks for ways to get sophisticated Russian military technologies. It is doubtful Moscow would respond to this interest on a large scale.

The danger of the Chinese military buildup should not be underestimated, especially in the long run, but there are grounds to believe that Russia's role will remain limited, even if a Communist comes to the Kremlin. Russians still feel toward China the apprehension of the time of the Soviet-Chinese split that led, in 1969, to bloody border clashes. "The Communists would not want to contribute to the appearance of a military monster at Russia's borders," a top Russian diplomat says.

Finally, China would not risk a strategic rapprochement with Russia because of its desire to keep a stable relationship with the United States; last year, the volume of China's trade with the United States was $43 billion, against $5.5 billion with Russia.

Russia and China need a limited rapprochement with each other. For Moscow, it is important to strengthen the security of eastern borders, to have China as a trade partner and to feel some Chinese backing in its political fight against NATO enlargement. But it is against Russia's interests to play games with China at the risk of serious damage to relations with the West.

If the Communists win the presidential election in Russia, things might change, but not dramatically. Gennadi Zyuganov would court the Chinese, but the limitations would remain. And some new ones might appear. Logically enough, the Chinese leaders are wary of a Communist victory in Russia. They worry that it might lead to chaos in Russia, or to attempts to restore the Soviet Union.

They would like Russia to remain a stable, non-hegemonic country that would not try to reabsorb Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan and other new Central Asian republics. Chinese leaders also have negative historical memories of the times of their conflict with the Soviet Communist Party. Whatever they feel about Mr. Yeltsin, they are content with the present relationship.

The likelihood is that the two giants will seek to use and balance each other, rather than forge an unnatural and unproductive alliance.

The writer is director for political and foreign affairs at Russian Public Television. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Enhance the Capacity to Succeed

By E. J. Dionne

WASHINGTON — You hear it a lot these days: Americans are just a bunch of "whiners" and "moaners." They are complaining about the economy, this critique goes, even though they live in the richest country on earth.

Like most polemics, this one contains some truths. The United States is, indeed, rich. There can never be total job security. And it will not be possible to re-create the exact conditions that led to the economic boom after World War II.

But the larger truth is that Americans have good reason for, well, whining and moaning. If you look in detail at why they are upset, you discover that their complaints are rooted in realism, that their expectations are not extravagant.

The most important fact is that the anxiety is not just about economics or "morals." It is a mixture of both, and something more: a sense of drift, a belief that it is impossible now to identify what constitute America's "core values," a feeling that following society's rules doesn't pay off.

These are among the findings of in-depth interviews with swing voters commissioned by the Center for National Policy, a Democratic-leaning think tank. The study sought to throw light on political problems by asking some nonpolitical questions.

One can argue about how well or badly the economy is doing, but it is clear that average wages have been stagnating or declining for quite a while. Economic growth in the last two decades has been concentrated among the well-off. That creates a lot of anxiety.

Such anxiety is never just about economics. The study makes clear that the side effects of economic difficulties may be the most important.

At a personal level, many people feel they are underachieving. "I'm not where I'm supposed to be, and I played by the rules," said one voter.

Society, these voters said, has become "colder" and "less caring." When everybody is scrambling to stay even, people have fewer opportunities to build ties with their neighbors, let alone help them out. As the authors put it, "dramatically decreased leisure time" due to the need to work longer hours "severely limits the time for social occasions and interactions."

The good news for Republicans is that many of their basic positions — against taxes, welfare spending and crime, and for "family values" — are popular with swing voters. Republicans are seen as having a real agenda, which conveys a sense of strength and direction.

Democrats, by contrast, are seen as having an "unfocused and unclear" agenda. Many swing voters fear that the Democrats' concern for the needy precludes concern for middle-class voters like them.

But the Republicans have big worries, too. They are perceived as "too harsh, too extreme and too self-interested." The Democrats scored big on Medicare, the study suggested, because these voters worry a lot about the well-being of the elderly. And because these voters worry about "rampant individualism" in both the economic and the moral spheres, the Republicans' economic message may undercut their gains on "family values."

But the study's most intriguing finding was that Democrats are identified with "an outdated social dynamic of gratifying dependency" rather than "mobilizing competence." Every Democrat should read those terms several times.

If there is a way out of America's current bout with cynicism about government, it lies in seeing the primary purpose of government programs as enhancing the capacity of people to succeed — what John Stuart Mill, the great philosopher of liberalism, called "help toward doing without help." (The GI Bill and student loans are excellent examples.)

Anxious American voters are not asking for the easy life. They want their work to be rewarded. They would like a little time left over to forge stronger bonds with their families and their communities. They might thereby have a better chance of doing something about the social problems that worry them. That's not a lot to ask.

The Washington Post.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1896: Remarkable Gun

NEW YORK — A native of Montreal has invented a gun which, he confidently believes, when it is adopted by all nations, will make war impossible. The most remarkable feature of the gun is that no explosive is used and that its missiles are projected by an agency the nature of which is a profound secret, which, without noise or smoke, is capable of discharging the incredible number of 260,000 shots a minute.

1921: Immigration Bill

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives has passed the Immigration Bill, which sharply restricts aliens coming to the United States for a period of 14 months. The main feature of the Bill is the limitation of immigration to 3 per cent of the existing nationality in the country on the basis of the 1910 census. The maximum number that will be admitted during a year is set at 592,000. Representative Mondell, in a speech favoring the passage of the Bill, demanded that America be saved from the incoming horde of foreign anarchists and Reds.

1946: Mussolini Moved

ROME — The body of Mussolini was stolen before dawn today [April 23] from an unmarked grave in the Milan "Potters Field" in which he was buried ignominiously 51 weeks ago. The coffin was opened and the body was removed, one boot remaining behind. A card left in the looted casket stated in effect: "We are taking away the glorious remains of Mussolini in order to be able to keep them in jealous custody and to honor his memory." The sensational theft was accomplished with an ease which reflected long planning.

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OPINION/LETTERS

For Some Political Fun, Watch the House Races

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — If you are bored — as many people who normally savor politics appear to be — at the prospect of Bob Dole's challenging Bill Clinton in the presidential race, then shift your gaze to the contest for control of the House of Representatives and you will find a battle that ought to delight any political buff.

Implausible as it seemed even a few months ago, the Democrats actually appear to have a chance to regain control of the House from the Republicans and cut short the "revolution" that began with the election of 1994.

True, Representative Bill Paxon of New York, the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee and architect of the victory that made Newt Gingrich the speaker, is sticking with his early prediction that Republicans will add at least 20 seats to their current 236, thus doubling the size of their majority. He brags about his committee's raising four times as much money in this cycle as in the last and points out that 21 House Democrats are quitting politics, many of them from shaky districts, compared to only a dozen Republicans, most of them in safe seats.

But Representative Martin Frost of Texas, new head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, has been talking optimistically for months about the Democrats' chances of picking up the 19 to 21 seats they would need to elect the minority leader, Dick Gephardt of Missouri, as the next speaker. (They have 197 sitting members, 21 short of a majority, with one Democratic vacancy in Oregon and a Socialist independent from Vermont who regularly votes with them.)

In the last few weeks, some smart people are beginning to think that Mr. Frost may not be nuts. One of them is Charles E. Cook Jr., whose Cook Political Report is a widely respected tout sheet, relied on by reporters, lobbyists and political consultants.

In the latest edition of his Political Report, Mr. Cook says: "We'd put the chances of Democrats taking control of the House at about one in three, maybe slightly better." That is a lot shorter odds than anyone would have given the Democrats until recently.

On Mr. Cook's preliminary scorecard, Democrats are defending four more hard-to-hold seats than the Republicans — 32 Democrats, 28 Republicans. But he adheres to the same adage that I was taught years ago by James H. Rowe Jr., a wise old Washington lawyer and Democratic operative.

At this time of an election year when everything seemed murky, he would tell me: "Remember, David, there is always a trend. Sometimes you see it early and sometimes late, but there's always something moving out there."

Mr. Cook points out that in 12 of the last 25 House elections, the trend has been strong enough that one party or the other has gained at least 20 seats. In eight of those elections, the swing has been at least 30 seats, and in six of them, at least 40 seats.

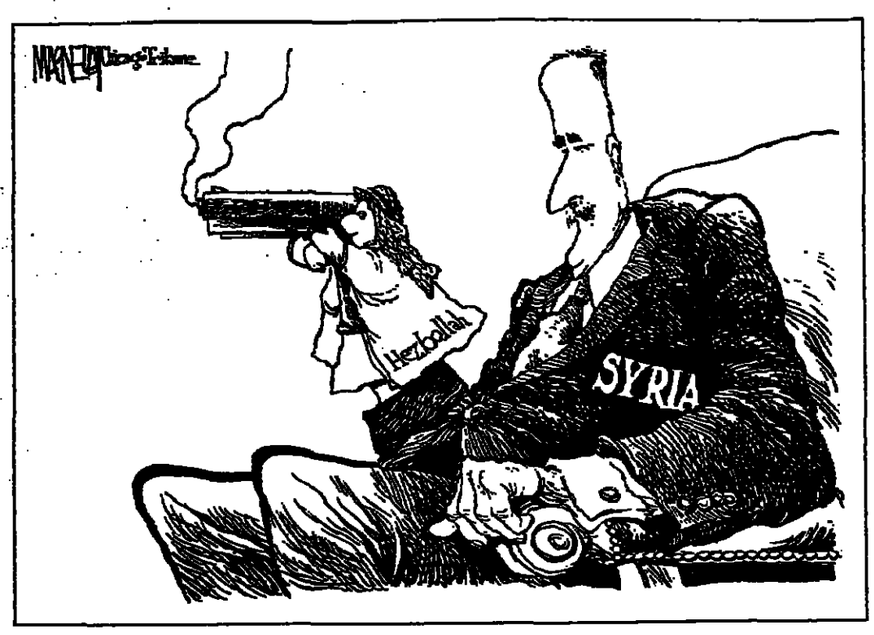
The first signs of a possible Democratic trend are now turning up in the polls, which in the past month consistently find that the "generic ballot test" has swung against the Republicans. When pollsters ask which party likely voters intend to support for Congress, the Democrats now have a slight advantage, usually around 5 points. That may not sound like much, but it is a seismic shift from 1994, when the Republicans outpolled the Democrats by 7 points in the national congressional vote and gained 52 seats.

Will the Democratic trend hold? The truth is that no one knows. Congressional Republicans have been off-stride and on the defensive ever since they were blamed by most voters for causing the two shutdowns of government in the budget battles with President Clinton this past winter.

But with six months still to go before Election Day and a host of hot issues on the agenda, an intriguing psychological profile of voters released last week by the Center for National Policy showed both parties' messages to be off-target in dealing with the widespread public anxiety about Washington. So there is time aplenty for the picture to shift.

Nonetheless, it looks as if two big decisions — not just one — will be made in November. It's not just a question of which party will control the White House. It's also a choice between Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Gephardt for speaker.

The Washington Post.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hong Kong Foundation

Regarding "China Takes a Hong Kong Public Relations Blitz to the World" (Opinion, April 11) by Philip Bowring:

The aim of the Better Hong Kong Foundation is to promote Hong Kong both locally and internationally as an excellent place to invest and reinvest both before and after the transition of sovereignty to China in July 1997. When it was established in September 1995, it was clearly stated that it was an apolitical, nonprofit body.

Given such a mandate, the foundation does not therefore take a position on political issues surrounding the transition. It is, however, active in promoting business and activities such as visits to the United States, and conferences on economics and financial issues are part of an extensive range of initiatives to be undertaken by the foundation. Visits are also made to the People's Republic of China, where the views of Hong Kong people on business and economic issues are given to leading ministry officials.

It is a shame Mr. Bowring thinks these activities are insidious, as the foundation is highly transparent about what it is doing. He should also not jump to the conclusion that the foundation is organized and inspired by China. It is a Hong Kong organization, made up of Hong Kong people who are committed to ensuring the long-term economic and financial success of Hong Kong.

HENRY CHENG.
Hong Kong.

The writer is chairman of the foundation's advisory council.

On Madagascar

The news from Madagascar is atrocious: The country is anemic, there are beggars everywhere, the roads are in lamentable shape, the government doesn't know whether to say yes or no to the World Bank. That said, an abundance of aid is not exactly forthcoming.

Meanwhile, Madagascar does receive aid from France: a paltry billion francs a year. "That's colossal," a Madagascan journalist tells me. I tell him Madagascar needs to ask for more, but he is ashamed because he believes that with a billion francs in aid, Madagascans should be able to take care of themselves.

To compare: Madagascar has 13 million inhabitants, and Corsica has almost 60 times fewer, with 250,000. Corsica — a French département — receives more than 6 billion francs, or about 27,000 francs for each inhabitant, or the equivalent for each family of a nice new car. Madagascar is barely surviving. The island receives one billion francs a year, or 77 francs per inhabitant — or the equivalent for each family of a pair of shoes.

Is it fair that each Madagascan receives 350 times less than each Corsican, or — saying it another way — that each Madagascan receives in a year what each Corsican gets in a day?

FRANÇOIS TOULET.
Bourg Lastic, France.

Quebec Voters

Regarding "A Breather for Quebec" (Editorial, April 12):

The editorial states that "Quebec separatists have long contended that their nationalism was not limited to the French-descended majority." The fact that 95 percent of the Quebec electorate that did not fit into this category voted against separatism makes the nationalist cause rather dubious. The fact that Quebec's then-premier called these non-French-descended citizens "money and the ethnic vote" and then vowed "revenge" makes the nationalist cause rather more than dubious.

But the nationalists cannot admit that their movement is based on race, for fear of alienating the most important block of voters in Quebec: the overwhelming majority who share in the Canadian experience of an open and tolerant society. "Moneyed" and "ethnic" voters included.

MICHAEL KNIGHT.
Salignac, France.

*Yo, You Stupid *@#&!: Profanity Reigns in N.Y.*

By Clyde Haberman

NEW YORK — It's time for a quiz about life on the sidewalks of New York.

A young man was a step too slow racing for the Second Avenue bus. As it pulled away, he angrily shouted one word for everyone nearby to hear. It was:

(a) Gadzooks.
(b) Doggone.
(c) Phooey.
(d) None of the above.

A fast-moving bicyclist screamed at a middle-aged man trying to cross Broadway. "Watch where you're going, you ... " His next two words were:

(a) Errant knave.
(b) Brainless dolt.
(c) Pedestrian poltroon.
(d) None of the above.

MEANWHILE

It should be obvious that the correct answer, both times, is (d). Anyone remotely familiar with New York knows that the words actually yelled were nowhere near fit to print, not here, anyway.

These are but two examples, mild at that, of the vulgarization of a city awash in people who, if a mere five or six choice words were excised from their vocabulary, would effectively be struck dumb. Many first-time visitors, and even veteran New Yorkers who have been away for a long stretch, are shocked by how the standards of acceptable public language can veer here toward collapse.

Two men in pinstripes, riding the subway to Wall Street, ignore others' sensibilities as they keep up a high-volume conversation laced with profanities. Same with three teenagers on a bus. Ditto for a cabdriver complaining about the (expletive) traffic. Or for a police officer in Times Square who, asked politely what a street protest is about, replies: "How the (expletive) should I know?"

There is no shortage of anecdotal evidence suggesting that the verbal pollution has thickened. And woe to you should you ask a foulmouth to keep it down, if only because you have in tow a child whom you like to shield from shrieked obscenities. The odds are you will be subjected to a four-lettered tirade on the right to utter crudities, as though self-restraint were a mark of hypocrisy instead of good manners.

Of course, New York has always been a high-pressure, high-tolerance city, where anything goes. Is it worse now than in the past? The writer Avery Corman, a son of the Bronx, doubts it. "I think the vast middle where most of us live is no more vulgar than ever," he said. But E. L. Doctorow, another author with Bronx roots, falls in with those who feel that "something has happened," that public discourse has become debased. "When people feel out of it or embattled, language deteriorates just as it does in wartime," Mr. Doctorow said. He puts part of the blame on politicians and other public figures "who get on the airways and become exemplars of this terribly negative, sneering spirit that denies people any complexity, any dignity."

Which brings us to the self-styled victim of the moment, Bob Grant, the WABC-AM radio host who was yanked off the air for seeming to gloat about the plane crash that killed Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Mr. Grant now presents himself as a martyr to political correctness, stripped of his microphone only because of his outspoken conservatism.

But others wonder what took Capital Cities/ABC so long to get rid of him (other than its recent purchase by the image-conscious Walt Disney Co.). Was Cap Cities saying that until last week it was fine for Mr. Grant to describe Mayor David Dinkins as "a washroom attendant," to call blacks "savages" and to say Haitian boat people should drown?

No one questions his right to sneer. But as with the street vulgarians, the question is, Whatever happened to decency? And by tolerating excess, do we allow discourse in general to reach a point where, as Mr. Doctorow warned, "even an illusory sense of community dissolves"?

Over the weekend, Mr. Grant complained of having lost his First Amendment rights. In fact, he lost no such thing, argued Norman Siegel, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union and a staunch believer in the First Amendment. That amendment says only that Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of speech. It says nothing about Cap Cities. Or Disney.

The New York Times.

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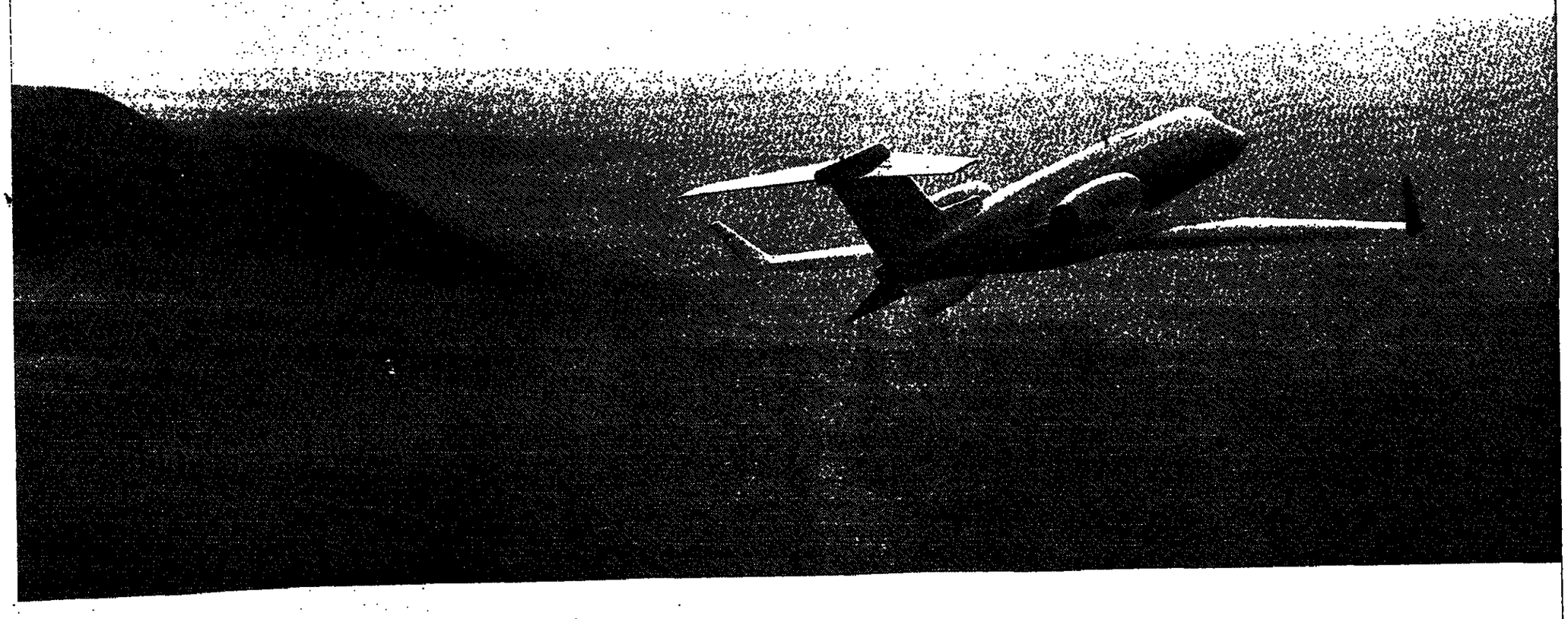

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In re:	Chapter 11
KALVAR MICROFILM, INC., ANACOMP, INC., ANACOMP INTERNATIONAL N.V., FLORIDA A A C CORPORATION and XIDEX DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.	Case No. 96-15 (HSB)
Debtors.	Jointly Administered

Kalvar Microfilm, Inc. - Tax I.D. #35-1576498
Anacomp, Inc. - Tax I.D. #35-1144238
Florida A A C Corporation - Tax I.D. #59-2210868
Xidex Development Company - Tax I.D. #94-2981665

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF VOTING PACKAGES AND OF HEARING TO CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF DEBTORS' SECOND AMENDED JOINT PLAN OF REORGANIZATION

TO THE HOLDERS OF 9% CONVERTIBLE SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES OF ANACOMP INTERNATIONAL N.V.:

You are hereby notified that by order (the "Order") dated March 28, 1996, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Court") has approved the Debtors' Disclosure Statement Pursuant to Section 1125 of Title 11 of the Bankruptcy Code For The Second Amended Joint Plan Of Reorganization Of Anacomp, Inc. And Certain Of Its Subsidiaries (the "Disclosure Statement") as containing "adequate information" as that term is *defined in Section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to Debtors' Second Amended* Joint Plan of Reorganization (the "Plan"). The Order fixes May 8, 1996 at 4:30 p.m., Eastern *Daylight Time, as the deadline for receipt by Logan & Company, Inc., the Debtors' Ballot* Agent, of ballots accepting or rejecting the Plan.

The hearing on confirmation of the Plan will be held at the United States Bankruptcy Court, 824 Market Street, 6th Floor, Wilmington, Delaware on May 17, 1996 at 10:00 a. m. (Eastern Daylight Time). Objections to confirmation of the Plan must be in writing, must be in conformity with all applicable provisions of the United States Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Rules of the Bankruptcy Court, must state with particularity the legal and factual basis for the objections and must be filed with the Court and served upon, so as to be received by, (i) the Debtors' undersigned counsel, (ii) counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, Daniel H. Golden, Esq., Stroock Stroock & Lavan, 7 Hanover Square, New York, New York 10004; (iii) the Office of the United States Trustee, John D. McLaughlin, Esq., 601 Walnut Street, Curtis Center, Suite 950 West, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106; (iv) Marcia L. Goldstein, Esq., Weil, Gotshal & Manges, 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10153, counsel for the holders of the Old Credit Facilities Secured Claims; and (v) Douglas Daws Esq., Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York, New York 10005 counsel for the holders of the Old Senior Notes Secured Claims, on or before May 8, 1996 at 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time). Only those objections that are timely filed and received will be considered by the Court.

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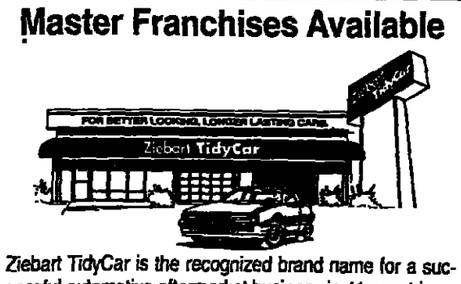

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STAGE/ENTERTAINMENT

The Summer Film Glut

By Bernard Weinraub
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — It's the spring of Hollywood's discontent. And the summer doesn't look any happier. Flops have come from the Walt Disney Co. ("White Squall," "Before and After," "Two Much") and Sony ("The Juror," "City Hall," "Mary Reilly"), and the other studios have suffered mishaps, too.

"Diabolique" (released by Warner Brothers), "Girl 6" (20th Century Fox), "Faithful" (New Line Cinema) and "The Star Maker" (Miramax), to name just a few, have not exactly been cause for cheering.

The quality of a film, or rather the lack of quality, is usually the main reason it fails. But now the studios are insisting that there is another rationale for lackluster box office: the seemingly unstoppable waves of new releases that roll in each weekend, overwhelming audiences with choices and making competition increasingly intense. As summer, peak movie season, approaches, those waves will become tidal.

"You don't want to think about the competition, because there's so much of it, and it's too depressing," said Jan De Bont, director of "Speed," whose new film, "Twister," is the first of about a half-dozen expensive ($70 million and up) "event" films opening between now and Labor Day. "All these big movies have potential, but they're so close together. They have no breathing space."

"Twister," a tornado epic with a screenplay by Michael Crichton and his wife, Anne-Marie Martin, is to open on May 10, two weeks earlier than initially planned. That's because Warner Brothers wants to get a beat on the competition, which includes these potential heavyweights:

- "Mission: Impossible," Paramount, based on the old television series and starring Tom Cruise, opening Memorial Day weekend.
- "Dragonheart," Universal, a 10th-century fantasy about dragons, May 31.
- "The Rock," Disney, a Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage prison drama, June 7.
- "The Cable Guy," Columbia, starring Jim Carrey as every cable subscriber's nightmare, June 14.
- "Eraser," Warner Brothers, with Arnold Schwarzenegger as a lawman involved in an elite witness-protection program, June 21.
- "Independence Day," 20th Century Fox, about an alien force that invades the earth, July 3.

The Fourth of July weekend is normally the biggest moviegoing time of the year in the United States. But after the trailer for "Independence Day" — which depicts New York City skyscrapers crumbling and the White House exploding — was shown during the Super Bowl telecast, the other studios ran for the hills.

One might think this would please the movie's director, Roland Emmerich, a German-born filmmaker whose earlier science-fiction drama, "Stargate," was an unexpected hit. But it doesn't.

"Everybody moved away from us, but still, like we're surrounded by all the gorillas," said Emmerich. "We have like the five-day weekend. We're all to ourselves. But I'm a little nervous. I'm more than a little nervous. I'm getting anxiety attacks."

Apparently, he is not alone. The number of major-studio releases in 1995 increased to 235 from 194 in 1994, and the figure is expected to rise further this year. The overall number of releases, including independent films not associated with studios, reached 419 last year, and is also expected to climb higher this year.

At least three or four movies are scheduled for each weekend this summer, creating a Darwinian mood at studios. Compounding the sense of anxiety are the Olympic Games, which will create even more competition for audiences in late July and early August.

"This is a horrible marketplace," said Harvey Weinstein, co-chairman of Miramax. "Four, five movies open each weekend and cannibalize each other. If you want to put out a comedy, there are three others out there. It's only a market for the strong."

Robert A. Daly, co-chairman of Warner Brothers, said, "The killer is you have all these extraordinary movies and nobody has any time to exploit them, without another big movie being on top of you.

Unstoppable waves of new releases are rolling in.

"There's not enough playing time. And then you have to spend a fortune on advertising to keep up that want-to-see awareness."

(It costs at least $20 million to promote a film, and the figure soars far higher on movies like "Independence Day" and "Eraser.")

What stamps the summer are not just super-expensive action films, but also a significant number of movies whose stars are seeking to reignite their careers. One of them is Universal's "Nutty Professor," a remake of the Jerry Lewis comedy, starring Eddie Murphy, whose career has stumbled after a series of flops.

It is due to open June 28, the same day Columbia plans to release "Striptease," an erotic comedy-drama starring Demi Moore, whose last few films (among them, "The Scarlet Letter") have not done well.

On Aug. 9, Warner Brothers is releasing Ron Shelton's "Tin Cup," starring Kevin Costner as a golf hustler. It is Costner's first film since the much-abused "Waterworld." Not only are actors' careers on the line; the jobs of some top executives at Sony, which owns Columbia, are said to be at risk if "The Cable Guy" fails.

Reasons for the deluge are many. For one thing, once-struggling independent companies like Miramax and New Line Cinema are producing and distributing far more films than in the past. Why? Because they are owned by much bigger, much wealthier companies, Walt Disney and Turner, and are thus rolling in money.

There is also the growth of the foreign market, which accounts for at least half, and sometimes far more, of a film's gross. Other ancillary markets, like videos, cable and network television, create a constant hunger for movies.

"A lot of films are just doing far better in the foreign market than here," said John N. Krier, president of Exhibitor Relations. "Waterworld," for example, became a metaphor for a big-studio (in this case, Universal) blunder. Although it grossed $88 million in the United States, it was still considered a major failure, because it had cost at least $150 million to make and market — and possibly far more. But it has grossed $260 million worldwide, turning a profit.

John Haynes

Ken Stott and Arlene Cockburn in "The Prince's Play."

Pure Melodrama – and It's Great

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — It's not often we get to see pure melodrama these days, and when we do the script is generally so mauled about or camped up that it is difficult to work out the appeal of the genre even for our television and paperback-starved grandparents.

All credit, therefore, to Richard Eyre at the National and his verse translator, Tony Harrison, for giving us a rare glimpse of Victor Hugo's "Le roi s'amuse." Outside the Comédie Française, this is probably better known as "Rigoletto," and we have had some stunning updates of that recently, not least from Jonathan Miller in a long-running revival at the Coliseum.

But what Harrison now calls "The Prince's Play" still has a lot going for it, even without the Verdi score. It was banned after its original first night in 1832, and has even been given credit for bringing down the Bourbon dynasty a few years later, for it tells of a lascivious and corrupt court in which the king rapes the teenage daughter of a vaudevillian only then to sacrifice her life. This of course leads to the body in the sack and the father's fateful discovery that it is his beloved child and not the evil monarch who has been summarily dispatched.

Quite which monarch we are dealing with here is left suitably vague by Eyre's imprecisely late-Victorian staging: Could this be Edward VII in waiting? Could he even have been Jack the Ripper, as some conspiracy theorists still believe?

No matter. The driving force here is Ken Stott as the Rigoletto jester, now transformed into an end-of-the-pier comic. After years as an intriguing character actor, Stott makes a breathtaking breakthrough to stardom, one that eclipses all others on stage. His alone is the voice of republican conscience, and his determination to bring down the monarchy that has brought down his family is undoubtedly what got the play banned in the first place and Hugo exiled by Louis Napoleon to the Channel Islands a few years later.

"The Prince's Play" is in the best sense subversive, and by the time we get to the storm scene with rain pelting

LONDON THEATER

the stage in darkest night what we have here is the French "King Lear" is all its obsessive justice-seeking magnificence.

"God made the world in seven days; now you can't even get a decent pair of trousers made in three months." No, not Coward or Rattigan but their clinically depressed contemporary Samuel Beckett, whose "Endgame" is now at the Donmar Warehouse in a strong new production by Katie Mitchell, with Alun Armstrong as the crippled tyrant Hamm and Stephen Dillane as his less than faithful servant, Clov.

After years of unqualified and sometimes undeserved adulation, I get the impression that my critical colleagues are gradually turning against Beckett, and this production therefore comes as a reminder of precisely why he mattered. He was the doom-laden poet of the apocalypse, not strong on plot, it is true, but able to deliver terrible warnings about the Armageddon to come — one of which the two principal characters here appear to be the sole survivors — unless you count Hamm's legless parents, confined to upstage dustbins and the occasional, cynical complaining about their lot.

More than 40 years later, "Endgame" retains the bitter post-nuclear horror of Eliot's "The Hollow Men," and Beckett talked of it as "a chess game lost from the start." But there is still a bleak and terrible humor here. Survival, "Endgame" tells us, could be a lot worse than annihilation: but this production rightly also dwells on the blackest of Beckett's jokes; "Do you believe in life to come?" "Mine has always been just that."

As for the rest, it's less of a chess challenge than a weary stalemate.

At the Comedy, "Twelve Angry Men" is a curious choice for a revival by Harold Pinter, if only because the script has been around for 40 years, first as an award-winning television drama, then as a classic Henry Fonda movie and after that in a London stage production in 1964.

The problem arising is therefore a simple one, but potentially fatal for a jury-room thriller: Can there be many of us observers who don't already know the precise outcome?

The answer, as Pinter has brilliantly realized, is that previous knowledge here counts for nothing. This is, like the "The Caine Mutiny," not about a verdict. Instead, it's an opportunity for the best character actors in town — Timothy West, Alan MacNaughtan, Tony Haygarth, Peter Vaughan — to take on the memory of Hollywood's finest.

By the end of a genuinely thrilling evening, the mastery of Reginald Rose's script has won through again. Sure, some of the accents are a little shaky, and there is no feeling of the mid-1950s social and political paranoia that conditioned the original as it did so much of the best of live U.S. television at that time. But what we have left is, in this later era of O.J. Simpson and the Menendez brothers, the most tensely nail-biting, topical and brilliantly played and staged courtroom drama of the decade.

I doubt the Comedy will need another show this side of Christmas.

The Misused Daughter: 2 Operatic Tales

By David Stevens
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — This city's rather spoiled operagoers have a current choice between two masterpieces, created almost a century apart, on the theme of a daughter badly treated by a frightful family.

What with the protean nature of genius, there is no chance of confusing the resulting works. Rossini, with a slight nod in the direction of Charles Perrault's Cinderella tale, produced "La Cenerentola," installed at the Palais Garnier in Jérôme Savary's hyperactive production. Richard Strauss, with the heavyweight collaboration of Sophocles and Hofmannsthal, stunned the musical world with "Elektra," the centerpiece of a 10-day occupation of the Châtelet by Daniel Barenboim and the Berlin Staatsoper.

"La Cenerentola," famously created by Rossini for Rome in less than a month, is not only a work of comic inventiveness, but a fountain of deeply felt emotion. Savary, who gives his champagne a good shake before opening the bottle, overflows as usual. He pays due attention to the details of the plot, then all but buries it in a plethora of sight gags. The most spectacular is the crashing entrance of Don Magnifico, whose upper level sleeping nook descends to the ground floor like an uncontrolled elevator.

Rossini and his librettist, Jacopo Ferretti, opted for a "realistic" Cinderella story, but Savary and his designer, Ezio Toffolutti, look out for Perrault's interests too. The flunkies who escort Cinderella to the ball include one carrying an irrelevant pumpkin, and the prince examines the girl's footwear before she gives him the bracelet that is her identifying symbol in the opera.

Jennifer Larmore in the title role is radiantly charming even when tending the fireplace, and when the moments come for coloratura fireworks she grabs the ball and runs with it to stunning effect. Rockwell Blake is an elegant Don Ramiro, and he and Alessandro Corbelli as Dandini have a lot of fun with the elaborate byplay of master pretending to be servant and vice versa. Carlos Chausson as Magnifico, Pietro Spagnoli as Alidoro, the practical good fairy, and Jeannette Fischer and Claire Larcher as the ridiculous sisters round out a solid cast, ably held together by Maurizio Benini.

The Staatskapelle, the house orchestra of the Berlin company, is the star of "Elektra," delivering a powerfully straightforward account of Strauss' dauntingly complex score. It was a bit startling to see the full orchestra share a curtain call with Barenboim, but not at all out of order.

But the cast was also first class, headed by the unflagging strength of Deborah Polaski in the title role, Inga Nielsen a glowing lyric presence as Chrysothemis, Falk Struckmann the stalwart Orest, Reiner Goldberg a brilliantly neurotic Aegisth and Uta Priew a solid but relatively subdued Klytemnestra.

Dieter Dorn's staging and Jannis Kounellis's set were almost anonymous, efficient rather than atmospheric — a neutral palace facade surrounding a courtyard whose dangling accoutrements indicated that this was indeed a slaughterhouse. The result was almost like a semi-staged concert performance, justified by the musical results.

The rest of the Berliners' visit includes a return of the "Fidelio" seen last year, a couple of concerts with more Beethoven and Strauss, and Barenboim as pianist with musical colleagues in a program of tangos — a reminder that Berlin's current musical chief was born in Buenos Aires.

BOOKS

CROSS CHANNEL

By Julian Barnes. 211 pages. $21. Knopf.

Reviewed by Carolyn See

THIS is a collection of stories about the strange fascination France has held for England over the years, but you can also compare it to an ethnic meal in an extremely authentic restaurant. There is your plate, with a 12-page dab of this and a 15-page dab of that. Those dabs look colorful, harmless, almost as if there might not be enough to eat, but those little dabs are strong. Each one is complex — almost to a fault. Their flavors are dense and unfamiliar. You have to think about what you're eating. Afterward you might even be a little giddy; your senses have been overpowered. Julian Barnes is like that: authentic, strong, strange.

Why do the English go to France? You don't see the French mooning and yearning about the British Isles, journeying off to London to live out fantasy lives. No, it's always the somewhat awkward, somewhat cloddish Englishman (or American, come to think of it) who follows the French girl out into the Cosmic Kitchen of the Cosmic Party, and squashes that girl up against the refrigerator, muttering, "You bother me!"

Bewildered, the Englishman doesn't know exactly what he wants. He only knows he wants something else. France, historically, has been that something else.

In "Interference," an English composer has gone into artistic exile, an idea that must have seemed like a good one, a romantic one, at the time. Now the composer and his female companion have lived out their lives: the composer is dying. Exile is romantic only if people come to seek you out; day-to-day life in a small French town can be dreary and stifling. And yet the composer has painted himself into an artistic corner; he's made his own prison and he's stuck in it. Something bad happens at the end of this story — a fairly conventional bad thing — but the triumph is in its prose style, which perfectly mimics the vernacular of the teens and '20s of this century. It's dazzling.

"Experiment" examines the wistful British wish for weird sex — to be fair, it may be everyone's wistful wish. Weird sex is, by definition, what you don't find at home. The narrator here annually visits his stupefyingly dull Uncle Freddy, who annually repeats — with variations — stories of his amorous adventures across the Channel. Poor Uncle Freddy is "indecently four-square; he seemed to have his thumbs in his waistcoat pockets even when wearing a two-piece suit." The high point of Freddy's younger life was his abduction by a group of feckless, reckless French surrealists who persuaded him to have sex with two women, one French, one English, to see if he could tell the difference. The evidence — both in notes left by the surrealists and in Freddy's elderly maunderings — tends to show that Freddy has been cruelly duped in ways he'll never understand, but perhaps that's the whole point of weird sex.

There are other projections, other fantasies here. Suppose — as an Irishman — you simply could not stand the idea that Protestants lived in France, and came over to crush that way of life, to turn whole villages to your own way of thinking, even if it meant massacre and arson and rape, all in the name of God, of course, but suppose some of those Frenchmen eluded you, in spite of all your terrible deeds? Suppose you yearned to ride in the Tour de France, the way marathoners yearn for the most difficult marathons. These are learned stories, each written in the style of its age or its characters. Some carry echoes of Somerset Maugham or Guy de Mau-passant. Some are pure originals. They're strong and strange. They'll leave you giddy.

Carolyn See reviews books regularly for The Washington Post.

BEST SELLERS

New York Times

This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on list are not necessarily consecutive.

FICTION

This Week		Last Week	Wks. on List
1	MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU, by Mary Higgins Clark		1
2	PRIMARY COLORS, by Anonymous	1	11
3	FIRST KING OF SHANNARA, by Terry Brooks	8	3
4	THE RETURN, by William Shatner with Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens	11	4
5	THE CELESTINE PROPHECY, by James Redfield	3	112
6	IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY, by Elizabeth George	2	5
7	THE HORSE WHISPERER, by Nicholas Evans	6	31
8	ABSOLUTE POWER, by David Baldacci	9	11
9	SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE, by Steve Perry		1
10	MONTANA SKY, by Nora Roberts	7	4
11	SPRING COLLECTION, by Judith Krantz	4	3
12	AND THIS TOO SHALL PASS, by E. Lynn Harris	10	7
13	THAT CAMDEN SUMMER, by LaVyrle Spencer	12	11
14	GUILTY AS SIN, by Tami Hoag	5	7
15	MCNALLY'S PUZZLE, by Lawrence Sanders	13	6

NONFICTION

1	IN CONTEMPT, by Christopher A. Darden with Jess Walter	1	3
2	BLOOD SPORT, by James B. Stewart	2	4
3	THE SEARCH FOR JUSTICE, by Robert L. Shapiro with Larkin Warren	9	2
4	RUSH LIMBAUGH IS A BIG FAT IDIOT, by Al Franken	3	12
5	UNDAUNTED COURAGE, by Stephen E. Ambrose	4	7
6	MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL, by John Berendt	6	103
7	HOW COULD YOU DO THAT? by Laura Schlessinger	5	11
8	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, by Daniel Goleman	7	29
9	THE RANTS, by Dennis Miller	12	2
10	IT TAKES A VILLAGE, by Hillary Rodham Clinton	8	13
11	HITLER'S WILLING EXECUTIONERS, by Daniel Jonah Goldhagen		1
12	YOU'LL NEVER MAKE LOVE IN THIS TOWN AGAIN, by Robin, Liza, Linda, and Tiffany, as told to Jennie Louise Frankel, Terrie Maxine Frankel and Joanne Parrent	10	8
13	100 YEARS, 100 STORIES, by George Burns	11	10
14	THE DEMON-HAUNTED WORLD, by Carl Sagan		1
15	MOUNTAIN, GET OUT OF MY WAY, by Mozelle Williams with Daniel Paisner		3

ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISCELLANEOUS

1	SIMPLE ABUNDANCE, by Sarah Ban Breathnach	1	3
2	MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS, by John Gray	2	152
3	THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL LAWS OF SUCCESS, by Deepak Chopra	3	57
4	THE ZONE, by Barry Sears with Bill Lawren		5

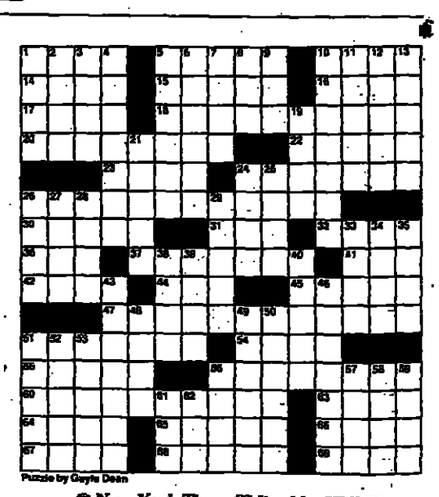
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Prefix with -genarian
5 Mercury model
10 Braid
14 No longer new
15 Bay window
16 Unhinged
17 Put out
18 Esteemed fish escort?
20 Capital on the Barada River
22 Declares
23 Map features: Abbr.
24 Italy's Gulf of ___
26 Let the baby fish beware?
30 You can believe it
31 Ready follower
32 Filet, maybe
35 Energy
37 Horticulturist's box
41 Lend a hand
42 Otherwise
44 Japanese novelist ___ Kobo
45 Wan
47 Musical TV fish game?
51 Eared flask
54 Dpole's river
55 Kind of nerve
56 Slandered
60 Fish's courting place?
63 Catch some Z's
64 Ohio or New York county
65 Martinique volcano
66 Commits a faux pas
67 Dupes
68 Eggs on
69 Security breach

DOWN

1 Had to give it to?
2 Robin Cook best seller
3 In good condition
4 Thunder Bay locale
5 Kin of rugby
6 Stir up
7 Some auction action
8 Constellation with the star Regulus
9 Toymaker's assistant
10 Shorebirds
11 Not the social type
12 Squirrel's prize
13 Certain sculpture
19 Nimbus
21 Characteristic mark
24 Rain slightly
25 Tommy Dorsey's "Oh, Look ___ Now"
28 Garment for Batman
27 Figure skating jump
28 Bigwigs
29 "Absinthe Drinker" artist
33 Site of the Koolau Range
34 Debt security
35 Novelist Ferber
38 Glittery fabric
39 Spy Rudolf
40 Graded
43 Tempts
46 Pastry whose name means "whirlpool"
48 Principal
49 One with a sting operation?
50 Sayings
51 Contends (with)
52 "Emani," e.g.
53 Möbius piece
58 Grouter's target
57 Reactor part
58 Poet Pound
59 Office station
61 Whirlpool
62 Modern information source, with "the"



Puzzle by Gayle Dean

©New York Times/Edited by Will Shorts

Solution to Puzzle of April 23

T	A	R	A		M	O	D	E	M		C	E	D	E
E	V	E	N		A	F	I	R	E		A	X	I	S
D	E	N	Y		M	A	R	I	S		M	I	N	T
	C	O	T	T	A	G	E	C	H	E	E	S	E	
			H	O	S	E				D	O	T	S	
C	A	S	I	N			B	L	E	S	S			
O	V	E	N		V	A	L	I	S	E		L	O	U
L	O	D	G	E	A	C	O	M	P	L	A	I	N	T
A	W	E		A	I	R	W	A	Y		L	I	C	S
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	A	C	M	E				P	A	L	S			
	S	H	E	D	L	I	G	H	T	U	P	O	N	
G	O	A	L		E	R	R	O	L		I	V	A	N
E	N	I	D		D	I	A	N	A		C	A	S	A
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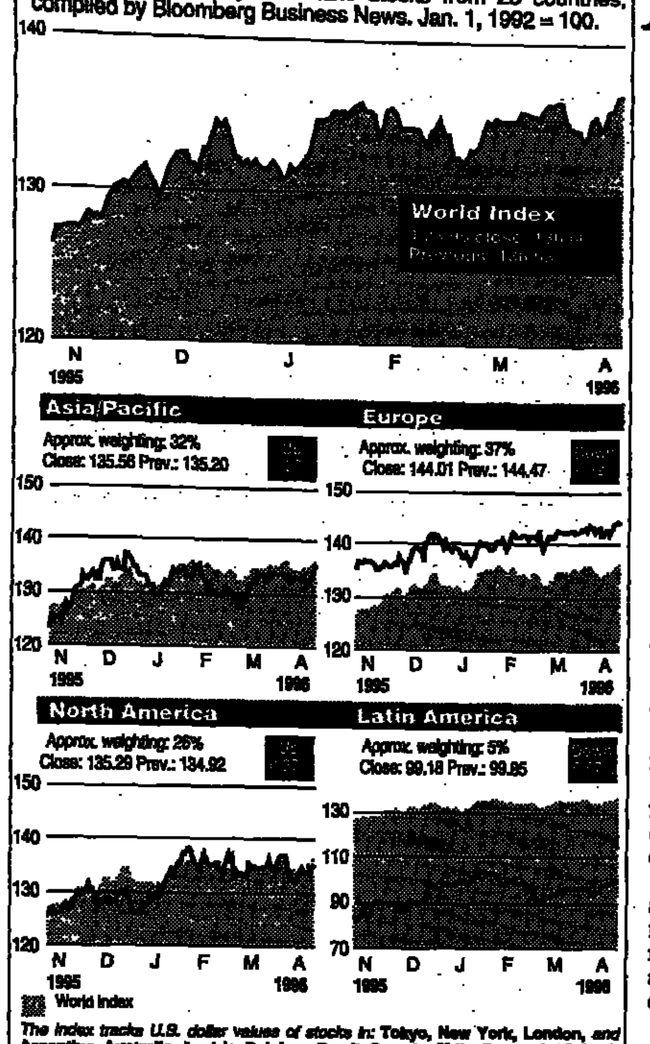

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Industrial Sectors

	Tue. close	Prev. close	% change		Tue. close	Prev. close	% change
Energy	142.22	140.82	+1.14	Capital Goods	148.43	148.12	+0.21
Utilities	131.43	131.71	−0.21	Raw Materials	163.03	163.62	−0.36
Finance	124.93	124.89	+0.03	Consumer Goods	141.56	141.59	−0.02
Services	125.59	125.74	−0.12	Miscellaneous	141.73	141.59	+0.10

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Agreement on Aid Is Elusive for IMF And World Bank

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Nothing came easily at the just-ended meeting of the world's finance ministers and central bankers here, as agreement on how best to help the poorest countries proved elusive and measures to avoid a new Mexico-style debt crisis were announced with a big cautionary asterisk.

Ministers attending a joint meeting Tuesday of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank were unable to bridge differences over a plan to provide badly needed debt relief to as many as 20 of the world's poorest nations, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Industrial nations, grappling with budget problems of their own, resisted a push by the IMF and World Bank for them to write off as much as 90 percent of the bilateral debt owed them and postponed the matter until the autumn.

Meanwhile, though progress was made on avoiding a new Mexico-style crisis, it came mostly in the form of technical changes in the way developing countries report their economic data.

The IMF has been frustrated in its attempts to amass an emergency fund to deal with such a crisis. The managing director of the organization said it was not clear that enough had been done.

"Will we be able to handle the next crisis when we have the next crisis?" the official, Michel Camdessus, asked. "Who knows? We were able to react to Mexico because we had abundant liquidity. The liquidity of the IMF is declining rapidly."

The multilateral institutions have been foiled not so much by a lack of agreement on the needs facing developing nations as by the question of who will pay and what those donors will receive in exchange.

There has been little debate that the poorest nations need substantial help if they are to bring their debts down to levels that will not smother all hopes of growth.

A joint proposal from the World Bank and IMF called on the rich nations of the so-called Paris Club to forgive 90 percent of bilateral debt, up from the 67 percent debt-relief level now theoretically available. But spokesmen for industrial nations said they were in no position to go that far.

Japan has resisted the 90 percent level, as has France, which noted that it had written off $11 billion of debt to the poorest nations since the 1980s. Germany has forgiven $6 billion in such debt.

Robert E. Rubin, the U.S. treasury secretary, said the IMF and World Bank, as well as regional development banks, would have to bear a larger share of the burden. "The success of the program shouldn't depend on contributions from bilateral donors," he said.

The United States is the largest donor to both the World Bank and the IMF, but it is behind in its payments to both, and President Bill Clinton has encountered opposition in Congress to his attempts to help fund the two organizations.

■ Monthly Trade Gap Shrinks

The U.S. trade deficit shrank 17.1 percent in February, offsetting part of a huge increase the month before, as American exports of services climbed to an all-time high, The Associated Press reported from Washington.

The Commerce Department said the deficit in goods and services fell to $8.2 billion in February from a revised January deficit of $9.9 billion. Exports of goods climbed 1.4 percent, to $49.7 billion, their second best showing on record, while exports of services were up 3.3 percent to a record $18.4 billion.

Analysts said the big increase in services reflected a surge in travel to the United States. Imports of goods dropped 0.9 percent, to $63.5 billion, while imports of services were up 1.4 percent, to $12.8 billion.

VW's Sales Rise to Record

But Automaker Sees Tougher Times Ahead

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Volkswagen AG, presenting the highest first-quarter car sales in the company's 58-year history, warned Tuesday that the growth rate could not be sustained for the full year.

"After the lively start in the first quarter of 1996, we expect only a slight increase in car sales and revenue for the rest of the year because of intensifying international competition and weak economic growth," the German automaker said, echoing recent statements from other European rivals that have bemoaned tough market conditions.

Similarly, full-year earnings will only show a "slight" improvement despite strong gains in the January-March period, it said, repeating its forecast from March. The automaker said its profit margins remained under pressure in the cutthroat niche for compact cars.

Volkswagen said its sales in the first quarter rose more than 15 percent, to 24.5 billion Deutsche marks ($16.21 billion), a company record for the January-March period.

The company's net profit rose to 116 million DM in the quarter from 13 million DM a year ago. But for a company with annual sales of 88 billion DM, analysts said the first-quarter profit figures were low. In 1995, VW's profit more than doubled, to 336 million DM. Nonetheless, Volkswagen's shares closed up 6.75 DM Tuesday, at 546.75 DM.

"In general, the competitive environment seems to be tightening," said John Lawson, an industry analyst at Salomon Brothers Inc. After automakers overproduced last year, many now find themselves with an inventory overhang of unsold cars, putting pressure on prices, Mr. Lawson said.

A Volkswagen spokesman said the company was still a long way from meeting its own profit goals. It aims for a 6.5 percent return on sales by 2000, up from 1.3 percent now.

The company will wait until May 8 to break out its first-quarter results by division. But analysts said the rebound in profit for the full group, which outpaced the parent-company improvement, indicated that problems at its Spanish division, Sociedad Española de Automoviles de Turismo SA, had diminished.

Volkswagen's Czech sub-sidiary, Skoda Automobilova, swung to a profit in the final quarter of last year and remained in the black in the first three months, the company said this week. At VW's Audi AG division, sales were helped by the launch of the sporty A4 model.

In VW's home market, growth was uneven. The German Automobile Industry Federation said that industrywide output in Germany fell 6 percent in March from a year earlier.

Germany Faces Crucial Talks on Cuts

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BONN — Industrial leaders Tuesday urged the government to stick to its guns and force through changes in the welfare and tax systems as a crucial round of talks involving government, unions and employers got under way.

"The coalition must force through its savings plans despite resistance," the German Federation of Chambers of Commerce, or DIHT, said.

The outcome of the talks is crucial to the passage of measures the government says would stimulate investment and employment.

Leaders of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union have said final decisions on key elements of a 50 billion Deutsche mark ($32.98 billion) package of government spending cuts will be made after the meeting, heightening the need for consensus at the talks.

Hans-Peter Stihl, who heads the DIHT, demanded the scrapping of the wealth tax, changes in the inheritance tax and cuts in the income-tax surcharge and in welfare payments.

Hans-Olaf Henkel, president of the Federation of German Industry, has said deep budget cuts and moderation in wage demands are the only way to avert a recession.

In addition to cuts in welfare, industry leaders want the legally required sick pay cut to 80 percent of wages from 100 percent for the first 14 days a worker is off.

The government has proposed cutting overtime from sickness pay, but union leaders have threatened to go on strike if that is done. They also have expressed anger at suggestions that the tax rate paid on the largest incomes be reduced while welfare is being cut.

Germany is trying to make economic changes that will avert a crisis in its pension system and allow it to trim its 1997 budget deficit to 3 percent of gross domestic product to qualify for European monetary union in 1999.

But economists are skeptical the government will be able to pass the large round of cuts it is hoping for.

"We don't expect the 1997 effect of the final package will be anywhere close to 50 billion marks, which, given the fragile state of the economy might not be such a bad outcome," said Stefan Schneider at Banque Paribas (Deutschland) in Frankfurt. "However, if the package falls short of high-sounding intentions, the government certainly won't achieve its aim of convincing critics it's in control and tackling the problems."

Günter Rexrodt, the economics minister, has said that the economy will grow less than 1 percent this year, missing an already lowered forecast of 1.5 percent.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

MEDIA MARKETS

A TV Debate: What's News?

By Paul Farhi
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It's a question straight out of Journalism 101: What, exactly, is news? In the television business these days, it has become more than an academic issue.

A panel of television executives, having met for weeks to develop a system of rating programs to signify their sex and violence content, is struggling to define what a news program is. While it is clear, for instance, that the nightly network news programs meet any definition of news, the line gets fuzzier as one goes from morning news-cum-talk programs such as "Good Morning America" and "Today" to tabloid programs such as "Inside Edition" and shows aimed at helping solve crimes such as "America's Most Wanted," though all of them use news-gathering techniques.

The industry has been forced into this exercise because news programs will be exempt from the ratings system when it takes effect next year. The ratings are being designed to work in conjunction with the so-called V-chip, the electronic program-blocking technology that will someday enable parents to screen out programs rated as not entirely child-friendly.

Although news programming can be graphically and realistically violent, the ratings group is wary of placing any restraints on the public's right to know. The panel's leader, Jack Valenti of the Motion Picture Association of America, says putting ratings on news shows would tamper with the free-press guarantee in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and might invite the sort of legal challenge the industry has been trying to avoid.

The discussions have consequences that go far beyond semantics. Being officially designated a news program may confer a small measure of legitimacy for programs at the ragged edges of journalism.

But the what-is-news debate also has financial underpinnings: A quasi-news program that is not categorized as news might wind up at the mercy of the V-chip, which would restrict the size of its audience.

As a result, the jockeying has begun. "We have a set of standards that we as a news organization operate under when we cover news events," says Sandy Genelius, a spokeswoman for CBS News. "Any show that doesn't operate by those or similar standards, such as the syndicated shows, we believe should not be included" under the definition of news.

Taking that as a swipe at his show, Arthur Sando, a spokesman for "Inside Edition," replied: "I'm amused that CBS, whose program '60 Minutes' is the father of the ambush interview, is now calling the kettle black."

People on the ratings panel, which includes representatives from the broadcast networks, say one idea they have discussed is defining as news anything produced by a news division.

But "that definition definitely has holes in it," said a panel member who asked not to be identified. "Is 'Entertainment Tonight' news? Is MTV News news?"

Both programs are produced by entertainment operations, though both clearly cover news of some kind.

Pepsi Plans To Pull Out Of Burma

Bloomberg Business News

PURCHASE, New York — PepsiCo Inc. plans to sell its 40 percent stake in a bottling joint-venture in Burma, yielding to critics of its business in the military-ruled country, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Pepsi will sell its stake in bottler Pepsi-Cola Products Myanmar in the "short-term," said Keith Hughes of Pepsi-Cola Co.

But the company said it would honor its contract to sell syrup concentrate and would allow the bottler to use the Pepsi trademark.

The move comes as shareholders and customers have taken Pepsi to task for doing business in the southeast Asian country, which is also known as Myanmar.

Harvard University decided earlier this month not to switch its $1 million beverage contract to Pepsi from Coca-Cola Co., bowing to student pressure. Four U.S. cities also have bans on city purchases of goods or services from companies that do business with Burma.

They have complained that Burma's military junta violates human rights.

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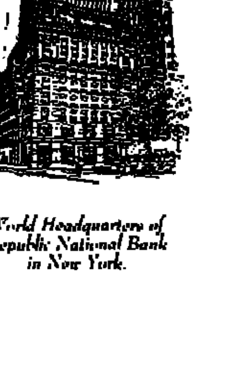

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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

April 23

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl.	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.698	2.573	1.119	0.3308	0.1085*	—	5.446*	1.3832	1.5958*	1.247	1.346*
Brussels	31.23	47.2225	20.546	6.076	2.0127*	18.2665	4.876	35.386	0.2931	22.9305	24.7225*
Frankfurt	1.5289	2.2987	—	0.2958	0.9804*	0.8898	4.8672*	1.2253	1.4083*	1.1168	1.2029*
London (a)	1.5113	—	2.291	7.7581	2,342.31	2.5637	47.986	1.6553	161.12	2.0599	190.565
Madrid	126.371	191.086	83.136	24.586	8.344*	74.398	4.0465	102.724	118.58*	92.887	—
Milan	1,558.50	2,344.15	1,020.15	301.98	—	913.97	49.78	1,288.59	14.497	1,135.95	12.297
New York (b)	—	1.5165a	1.522	5.141	1,554.00	1.7809	31.21	1.2238	106.765	1.3623	126.38
Paris	5.14	7.772	3.3816	—	0.3383*	3.0228	0.1646	4.1782	4.8106*	3.7753	4.069*
Tokyo	106.85	161.66	70.58	20.85	0.688	43.83	3.4324	87.93	—	78.45	0.8479
Toronto	1.3623	2.0665	0.8958	0.2652	0.8877*	0.8897	0.4085*	1.1052	1.2774*	—	1.971*
Zurich	1.224	1.8586	0.8089	0.2391	0.8791*	0.722	2.9365*	—	1.1534*	0.9984	0.9727*
1 ECU	1.256	0.8387	1.9092	4.456	1,948.94	2.1058	39.226	1.5452	130.856	1.7186	158.662
1 SDR	1.448	0.957	2.2005	N.Q.	2,245.00	2.4882	45.1484	N.Q.	154.595	1.9730	182.765

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris and Zurich, fixings in other centers; Toronto rates at 3 p.m.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9988	Greek drac.	241.91	Mex. peso	7.38	S. Afr. rand	4.2325
Australian $	1.2682	Hong Kong $	7.7355	N. Zealand $	1.4654	S. Kor. won	779.80
Austrian sch.	10.678	Hung. forint	149.57	Norw. krone	6.5265	Swed. krona	6.7124
Brazil real	0.985	Indian rupee	34.21	Phil. peso	26.17	Taiwan $	27.17
Chinese yuan	8.35	Indo. rupiah	2327.00	Polish zloty	2.64	Thai baht	25.23
Czech koruna	27.70	Irish £	0.6396	Port. escudo	155.48	Turkish lira	74001.5
Danish krone	5.854	Israeli shek.	3.1775	Russ. ruble	4922.00	UAE dirham	3.671
Egypt. pound	3.3965	Kuw. dinar	0.3004	Saudi riyal	3.75	Venez. boliv.	485.00
Fin. markka	4.8055	Malay. ring.	2.4963	Sing. $	1.4085		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.5132	1.5126	1.5120	Japanese yen	105.92	105.52	105.40
Canadian dollar	1.3620	1.3627	1.3633	Swiss franc	1.2228	1.2194	1.2158
Deutsche mark	1.5154	1.5128	1.5100				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banco Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from Reuters and AP.

Eurocurrency Deposits

April 23

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5 5/16 - 5 7/16	3 3/8 - 3 1/2	1 11/16 - 1 13/16	6 - 6 1/8	3 13/16 - 3 15/16	1/2 - 5/8	4 1/8 - 4 1/4
3-month	5 3/8 - 5 1/2	3 1/8 - 3 1/4	1 3/4 - 1 7/8	6 1/16 - 6 3/16	3 7/8 - 3 15/16	9/16 - 11/16	4 1/8 - 4 1/4
6-month	5 7/16 - 5 1/2	3 1/8 - 3 1/4	1 3/4 - 1 7/8	6 3/16 - 6 5/16	3 5/8 - 3 7/8	3/4 - 7/8	4 3/16 - 4 5/16
1-year	5 13/16 - 5 15/16	3 1/8 - 3 1/4	1 15/16 - 1 17/16	6 1/2 - 6 5/8	3 7/8 - 4 1/8	7/8 - 1 1/16	4 1/8 - 4 1/4

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8 1/4	8 1/4
Federal funds	5 1/4	5 1/4
3-month CDs	4.96	4.99
CP 180 days direct	6.11	6.11
3 month Treasury bill	4.97	4.87
1-year Treasury bill	5.19	5.18
2-year Treasury bill	5.92	5.90
5-year Treasury note	6.30	6.28
7-year Treasury note	6.39	6.37
10-year Treasury note	6.52	6.49
30-year Treasury bond	6.77	6.74
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	4.78	4.78
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.45	0.43
1-month interbank	0.63	0.63
3-month interbank	0.72	0.69
6-month interbank	0.88	0.88
10-year Govt bond	3.31	3.31
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	3.40	3.35
1-month interbank	3.35	3.35
3-month interbank	3.32	3.32
6-month interbank	3.30	3.30
10-year Bond	6.57	6.33

Britain		
Bank base rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	6 1/8	6.00
1-month interbank	6.00	6.00
3-month interbank	6.00	6.00
6-month interbank	6 1/8	6 1/8
10-year Gilt	8.00	7.98
France		
Intervention rate	3.70	3.70
Call money	3 3/4	3 13/16
1-month interbank	3 11/16	3 13/16
3-month interbank	3 13/16	3 13/16
6-month interbank	3 3/4	3 13/16
10-year OAT	6.40	6.41

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Crédit Lyonnais.

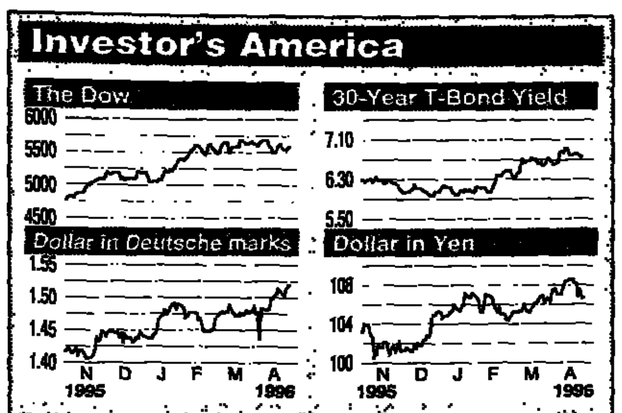
Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	391.50	392.00	+0.40
London	391.45	391.75	+0.75
New York	393.60	393.40	−0.20

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (June.)
Source: Reuters.

THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Exchange	Index	Tuesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	5588.59	5564.74	+0.43
NYSE	S&P 500	651.58	647.89	+0.57
NYSE	S&P 100	628.62	625.32	+0.53
NYSE	Composite	349.60	347.82	+0.51
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1166.76	1153.50	+1.15
AMEX	Market Value	590.73	587.37	+0.57
Toronto	TSE Index	5116.96	5095.50	+0.42
São Paulo	Bovespa	50619.22	50796.94	-0.35
Mexico City	Bolsa	3217.86	3251.23	-1.03
Buenos Aires	Merval	555.98	554.14	+0.87
Santiago	IPSA General	5512.06	5535.88	-0.43
Caracas	Capital General	N.A.	3972.92	

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

Acquisition Spells Loss for Disney

BURBANK, California (Combined Dispatches) — Walt Disney Co. posted a loss of $25 million for its second quarter Tuesday as the entertainment company absorbed the costs of buying Capital Cities/ABC Inc.

The results included pretax charges of $225 million for acquisition-related costs and $300 million for lowering the value of assets, mainly in its theme parks and resorts. Excluding the charges, profit fell 15 percent, to $268 million. Revenue rose 54 percent, to $4.54 billion. Disney had a profit of $316 million in the year-earlier period.

The company also said it planned to buy back as many as 104.5 million shares, or about 18 percent of the total outstanding. *(AFX, Bloomberg)*

• **Digital Equipment Corp.** plans to announce Wednesday details of an alliance with Computer Associates Inc. that will focus on business software for corporations. Separately, Digital said its third-quarter earnings rose 68 percent, to $124.1 million, on wider-than-expected profit margins.

• **ITT Corp.** said its profit soared in the first full quarter of independence from its former corporate entity, to $20 million, or 17 cents a share, from pro-forma net income of $6 million, or 5 cents a share, a year earlier.

• **UAL Corp.**, the parent of United Airlines, said first-quarter net income rose to $76 million from $59 million on higher ticket prices and an increase in passengers. Earnings included a charge of $29 million for the early retirement of debt. Revenue rose 12 percent, to $3.7 billion.

• **Sun Microsystems Inc.** said it had completed its $96.1 million purchase of Integrated Micro Products PLC of Britain, which makes computers for telecommunications companies.

• **Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.**'s first-quarter earnings rose 11 percent, to $726 million, fueled by strong sales gains for its cholesterol-lowering and cancer drugs. Sales also rose 11 percent, to $3.67 billion. *Bloomberg, Reuters, Knight-Ridder*

Nynex's Newest Partner: Sprint

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Nynex Corp. signed a two-year contract with Sprint Corp. on Tuesday to offer long-distance telephone service both inside and outside its seven-state region in the Northeastern United States. Financial details were not disclosed.

Under the agreement, Nynex will buy time on Sprint's network and resell it under its own brand name. Nynex also acquired the option to take over portions of the customer-service and network functions provided by Sprint, were it to decide in the future to build portions of its own long-distance network.

The deal gives Nynex access to the $70 billion U.S. long-distance market without the cost of building a separate network. "By using Sprint's infrastructure, we'll enter the market as a lean and efficient operation," said Robert Anderson, president of Nynex's long-distance subsidiary.

The move came one day after Nynex and Bell Atlantic Corp. announced plans to merge in a transaction that valued Nynex at about $21 billion. The merger was designed to make the companies more competitive in existing and new services, including local-phone service, long distance, cellular, paging and Internet access.

Nynex plans to offer long-distance service in six states outside its region in the next three months, pending regulatory approval. Those states — Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Texas — account for more than one-third of all domestic long-distance traffic ending in the Northeast, the company said. Nynex also says it could offer long-distance service in New York state by October.

Separately, Nynex said its first-quarter earnings rose 34 percent, paced by an increase in revenue and wider profit margins.

Nynex earned $407.3 million in the quarter, up from $304 million a year earlier. Earnings also were lifted by a one-time gain of $46 million from the sale of an investment. Sales rose to $3.32 billion from $3.15 billion.

"We continue to make progress in driving top-line growth and margin expansion," said Ivan Seidenberg, Nynex's chairman.

Although the results exceeded analysts' expectations, Nynex shares fell $1.25 on the New York Stock Exchange to close at $49.25. *(Bloomberg, Knight-Ridder, AFX)*

Seagram Names Biondi as Head of MCA

By Geraldine Fabrikant
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Seagram Co. said Tuesday it had appointed Frank J. Biondi Jr. as chairman and chief executive officer of its MCA Inc. unit, effective immediately.

Mr. Biondi, the former president and chief executive officer of Viacom Inc., will also join the Seagram board of directors, it said.

The move came after Sumner M. Redstone, the chairman of Viacom Inc., dropped his efforts to prevent Mr. Biondi, whom Mr. Redstone fired as president and chief executive in January, from taking the top job at its rival MCA, according to executives close to the talks.

Mr. Redstone had been attempting to force business concessions from MCA in exchange for letting Mr. Biondi out of a one-year contract that included a clause prohibiting him from working for a competitor.

But it was unclear why he agreed to let Mr. Biondi leave without having extracted the concessions.

Among the issues that had been brought into the talks over Mr. Biondi was MCA's and Viacom's joint ownership of USA Network, the cable television service. Under that arrangement, MCA said it had the right to become a partner in any new cable service that Viacom started, including TVLand, which Viacom expects to introduce next week.

Rising Lira and Robust Dollar Sap Mark

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar posted solid gains against other major currencies Tuesday after setting a 14-month high against the Deutsche mark, which also came under assault from the yen and the lira.

The dollar, which rose above 1.52 DM for the first time since early 1995, closed at 1.5220 DM, up from 1.5170 DM Monday, and at 106.705 yen, up from 106.600 yen.

Against other currencies, the dollar rose to 1.2338 Swiss francs from 1.2287 francs Monday and to 5.1410 French francs from 5.1370 francs. The pound slipped to $1.5165 from $1.5250. The lira led the assault on the mark, but the German currency also slid against the yen to a four-month low.

"The weak mark is still the main story here, and whether it's the lira leading it down one day or the French franc leading it down another, the central theme remains the same," said Peter von Maydell, economist at First Chicago.

"Everyone wants the mark cheaper. All the central banks are in agreement, and fundamentally it makes sense."

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The Bundesbank's credit-easing last week has enabled other European states to loosen their grip on monetary policy. Sweden cut its securities repurchase rate Tuesday to 6.90 percent from 7.15 percent.

The lira's rally carried into a second day after the center-left Olive Tree alliance won control of both houses of Parliament in results from the country's elections Sunday. The mark slumped as low as 1,018.45 lire, the first time it had traded below 1,020 lire since late 1994, and closed in Milan at 1,020.15 lire, down from 1,026.40 Monday.

Speculation that the new Italian government would take the lira back into the European exchange-rate mechanism, which it left in 1992, also fueled the lira's rally. Romani Prodi, leader of the victorious coalition, said he saw no reason the currency should not rejoin quickly.

But some analysts said the lira's surge was based largely on hope. "People seem to be factoring in the golden scenario for the lira," said Chris Turner, director of currency strategy at Barclays de Zoete Wedd. "They're looking for the new government to cut the budget deficit, rate cuts and ERM re-entry for the lira." *(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFX)*

Computer Rally Gives Ballast to Wall Street

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks rose Tuesday as better-than-expected earnings by Digital Equipment sparked a rally in computer issues.

The market was also buoyed by strong oil shares, one day after several oil companies reported strong first-quarter results.

Led by Exxon, Chevron and Texaco, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 23.85 points at 5,588.59. But the gains were not widespread. Advancing stocks outpaced decliners on the Big Board by only about a 13-to-10 ratio.

The Nasdaq composite index reached its fourth consecutive record, climbing 13.26 to 1,166.76. Investors saw strong profit from Digital Equipment as a sign that earnings elsewhere in the computer, software and semiconductor industries may outpace those of other businesses.

DEC, whose share soared 4½ to 59⅞, said its struggling personal computer business would return to profitability by the end of the year.

U.S. economic growth is strong enough to contribute to rebounding sales of computer products, analysts said. "With the prospect of economic resurgence later this year pulling up the demand for many computer products, there's likely to be an uptick in stock prices," said A.C. Moore, senior investment strategist at Dunvegan Associates.

DEC helped push up other computer stocks, among them Compaq Computer, up 1½ to 43⅞, and Hewlett-Packard, up 1⅞ to 103⅞.

Other makers of computer products surged after reporting earnings. U.S. Robotics Corp. soared 13½ to 151. Net income at the maker of computer modems was $1.10 a share after a loss of 13 cents a share a year earlier, beating expectations by 10 cents.

Baan Co., a Dutch software publisher, also gained after declaring a 2-for-1 stock split and reporting a strong first quarter. The stock rose 1⅞ to 61.

Oil stocks surged after big producers reported better-than-expected profits Monday, in some cases the best since late 1990, leading some analysts to raise earnings forecasts. Merrill Lynch said major international oil companies would be able to lift earnings by 10 percent or more starting in 1997, compared with 5 percent in 1996.

Exxon rose 2⅝ to 84⅝, Chevron rallied 1¾ to 57½, Mobil gained 3¼ to 116 and Amerada Hess added 2 to 57½.

Travelers/Aetna Property Casualty shares rose 2⅜ to 27⅜ in their first trading day and were the most active issue on U.S. exchanges as more than 14 million shares changed hands. Travelers Group formed the unit by paying $4 billion for Aetna Life & Casualty's property and casualty unit and merging it with its own insurance subsidiary. Travelers rose ⅞ to 62⅜.

United Technologies, up ⅜ at 113⅜, said it would buy back 5 million of its shares. The company also reported strong first-quarter earnings.

Retailers saw some of the market's largest gains after retail sales in the week ended April rose 6.88

U.S. STOCKS

percent, according to Johnson Redbook Service's weekly report.

Dayton-Hudson rose 2 to 93, Woolworth climbed 1¼ to 19¾, and J.C. Penney was up ⅞ at 49.

Case Corp., a maker of farm and construction equipment, surged 2⅞ to 51 after reporting better-than-expected quarterly earnings.

The company later was accused of selling construction equipment for use in Libya in violation of a U.S. embargo. Case said it regretted any past actions that might not have complied with the law.

Traders said stocks of smaller companies appeared to be gaining momentum. "Small stocks are livelier than they have been in some time," said Alan Ackerman, chief market strategist at Reich & Co.

Some analysts said stocks might have posted even larger gains if investors had not been worried about the sustainability of the recent rebound in U.S. economic growth.

"The bounce in the economy looks to us to be ephemeral and unsustainable," said Charles Clough, Merrill Lynch's chief investment strategist.

Stocks of cyclical companies such as retailers and paper makers have rallied since early March on the strength of two better-than-expected employment reports.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury bond rose to 6.77 percent from 6.75 percent Monday, reflecting the U.S. Treasury's new issue of two-year paper. Major securities firms who are required to bid at the Treasury's auctions often push yields higher before the sale to ensure they will be able to find buyers for the issue. The price of the issue slipped 11/32 to 90 3/32. *(Bloomberg, Knight-Ridder)*

AMEX

Tuesday's 4 p.m. Close
The top 300 most-active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
[illegible]					

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	5569.08	5598.34	5562.21	5588.59	+23.85
Trans	2209.60	2217.40	2183.29	2194.01	-19.74
Util	207.87	209.12	207.45	208.98	+1.11
Comp	1821.84	1825.09	1814.80	1822.23	+0.06

Standard & Poors

	High	Low	Close	Chg.
Industrials	773.09	767.35	773.09	+5.55
Transp.	524.70	518.28	521.85	-2.48
Utilities	192.15	191.05	192.15	+0.18
Finance	65.57	65.16	65.44	+0.10
SP 500	651.59	647.70	651.58	+3.69
SP 100	628.77	624.97	628.62	+3.30

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	349.60	347.74	349.60	+1.78
Industrials	445.01	441.93	445.01	+3.00
Transp.	333.06	329.56	331.02	-1.87
Utility	246.89	245.84	246.88	+0.41
Finance	288.19	286.95	287.91	-0.43

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1165.10	1154.91	1165.10	+11.60
Industrials	1091.48	1079.21	1091.48	+14.29
Banks	1052.63	1049.82	1052.32	+0.08
Insurance	1294.61	1283.75	1294.61	+9.04
Finance	1287.50	1284.39	1287.16	-1.81
Transp.	909.80	899.33	899.33	-6.58

AMEX

High	Low	Last	Chg.
590.73	586.85	590.73	+3.36

Dow Jones Bond

	Close	Chg.
20 Bonds	102.22	-0.17
10 Utilities	99.09	-0.17
10 Industrials	105.35	-0.18

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
TravAet n	144171	27⅝	26⅜	27½	—
LoralSp wi	70434	14⅛	12⅞	14	+1⅜
TelMex	58922	36¹¹⁄₁₆	35⅝	36	-1⅛
BayNwk s	51847	32⅝	32	32½	+⅞
Digital	51610	61⅛	57⅛	60⅞	+5⅛
EMC	47712	19	18½	18⅞	+⅛
WalMart	43262	23⅛	22⅝	23	+⅛
Nokia	37002	35⅞	35⅜	35½	+⅜
Motorola	36738	61¾	59⅝	61⅛	+2⅛
K mart	35419	10⅛	10	10⅛	+⅛
Compaq	33559	44⅛	42⅝	44⅛	+1⅞
Teradyn s	31977	19⅜	18⅝	19⅛	+⅜
MicmT s	31721	33⅝	32⅛	33¼	+¾
PartGT n	31574	21⅝	21⅛	21⅜	
AT&T	29574	61⅛	60⅝	60⅞	-⅛

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Cisco s	119589	49	46⅞	48⅞	+1⅞
Iomega s	93388	51⅜	43½	51⅜	+10⅛
SunMic s	88048	54½	48⅛	54⅜	+4⅛
Stratcm s	87037	49⅜	47⅜	49⅞	+1⁵⁄₁₆
Intel s	79249	68⅛	66⅛	67¹³⁄₁₆	+1⅝
3Com s	69307	44⅜	41	44¼	+3⅛
InfoDv s	59098	14⅛	12¾	14¼	+1⅛
CornNI g	51884	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝	+⅜
Oracle s	46219	34¼	33¼	34	+⅞
Atmel s	42083	40	36⅞	39⅞	+2
Informix s	41512	26½	24⅞	26⅛	+1⅞
PagingN s	37460	22¼	20⅞	21⅞	-⅛
ApldMat s	37111	38⅞	36⅞	38⅞	+1⅞
Microsoft	35491	113⅛	111⅜	112⅞	-⅛
AccuStf s	34943	31⅛	29	30	-1

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
ChevSoft	19375	23⅛	21⅜	22	-⅝
Harken	18737	2¹¹⁄₁₆	2⅝	2¹¹⁄₁₆	+⁷⁄₁₆
TWA n	10483	21	19⅞	20⅛	-⅛
NTNCom	10056	5⅛	4⅞	5	+¹¹⁄₁₆
ViacB	8639	42⅛	41⅜	41⅞	—
Hasbro	8343	37	35⅞	37	+1
Amdhl	7657	13⅛	12	13⅛	+⅞
Atari	7115	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛	+⅛
CornNG	6539	5⅞	5⅝	5⅞	+⅛
GoviCn	6327	10⅛	9⅞	10⅛	-⅛

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1335	1473
Declined	1050	923
Unchanged	739	747
Total issues	3124	3143
New Highs	157	143
New Lows	8	3

Nasdaq

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	2081	2176
Declined	1660	1576
Unchanged	1687	1672
Total issues	5428	5424
New Highs	311	303
New Lows	41	39

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	299	324
Declined	259	258
Unchanged	232	217
Total issues	790	799
New Highs	39	52
New Lows	2	5

Market Sales

	Today Close	Prev. cons.
NYSE	452.66	488.18
Amex	26.75	28.88
Nasdaq	602.58	582.59

In millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
Sentinel Bd Fd A	-	.037	4-23	4-30
Sentinel GvtSecs	-	.051	4-23	4-30
Sentinel PA TxFr	-	.053	4-23	4-30
US Restaurant LP	-	.47	6-13	
STOCK SPLIT				
Baan Co NV 2 for 1 split.				
Bank Granite 3 for 2 split.				
Northwest SvgsBk 2 for 1 split.				
Peoples Holding 3 for 2 split.				
Provident Bncp 3 for 2 split.				
Westernbank PR 2 for 1 split.				
REVERSE STOCK SPLIT				
US Bioscience 1 for 2 reverse split.				
INCREASED				
Riverside NatlBk	Q	.15	5-1	5-15
Sterling Bcp NY.	Q	.08	6-6	6-30
Valmont Indus	Q	.075	6-28	7-15
Webster CityFedl	-	.15	5-6	5-23
INITIAL				
Bk Granite n	-	.09	7-12	7-31
Westernbank PR n	-	.17	6-30	7-15
REGULAR				
ADAC Labs	Q	.12	6-28	7-10
Alex Brown Inc	Q	.20	4-29	5-8
AlliedSignal	Q	.225	5-20	6-10
Am Greetings	Q	.16	5-27	6-10
Bank West Fncl	Q	.07	5-6	5-20
BellSouth Corp	Q	.36	7-11	8-1
Central LA Elect	Q	.375	4-29	5-15
Col Intenn Hlinco	M	.057	4-30	5-10
Consol Papers	Q	.42	5-3	5-17
Fst Security Cp	Q	.21	5-17	6-3
Fst Wash Realty	Q	.4875	5-1	5-15
Firstar Corp	Q	.34	4-29	5-15
Gemini II IncShrs	Q	.35	5-1	6-3
IBS Fncl Corp	Q	.06	5-20	6-14
LSI Indus	Q	.04	5-11	5-18
Lee Enterpr	Q	.12	6-3	7-1
Lubrizol Corp	Q	.24	5-10	6-10
Minuteman Intl	Q	.10	4-30	5-15
NBT Bancorp Inc	Q	.13	5-31	6-14
NUI Corp	Q	.225	5-17	6-15
Noma Indus A	g	.03	5-24	5-31
Noma Indus B	g	.02875	5-24	5-31
Sears Cda Inc	g	.06	5-15	6-17
US Trust	Q	.25	7-10	7-25
Wells Fargo	Q	1.30	4-30	5-20

a-annual; b-approximate amount per share/ADR; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.
a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cld - called. d - new yearly low. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. P/E - price-earnings ratio. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

April 23, 1996

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Grains					
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
May 96	4.79	4.69½	4.78½	+0.08½	74,519
Jul 96	4.61	4.50	4.60½	+0.10¼	163,163
Sep 96	3.75	3.69½	3.73¾	+0.03¼	35,979
Dec 96	3.38	3.30	3.34		125,642
Mar 97	3.42½	3.34	3.39¼	-0.00½	12,932
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 93,882					
Mon's open int 440,594 off 8850					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
May 96	259.80	254.00	256.90		18,766
Jul 96	263.40	258.00	260.90	-0.10	50,879
Aug 96	263.00	258.20	261.00	-0.70	9,844
Sep 96	258.50	255.00	258.00	+0.30	6,117
Oct 96	254.00	251.00	253.80	+0.30	3,542
Dec 96	254.00	250.50	253.40	+0.70	15,089
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 23,750					
Mon's open int 106,166 up 1698					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- dollars per 100 lbs.					
May 96	26.85	26.38	26.62	-0.10	17,065
Jul 96	27.24	26.75	27.06	-0.03	46,493
Aug 96	27.37	27.00	27.21	-0.06	8,449
Sep 96	27.55	27.15	27.40	-0.04	4,256
Oct 96	27.53	27.20	27.49	-0.03	2,906
Dec 96	27.92	27.48	27.79	-0.02	15,188
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 15,509					
Mon's open int 95,713 off 786					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
May 96	8.20	8.02	8.12¼	-0.01¼	29,805
Jul 96	8.23½	8.11½	8.22	+0.00½	88,862
Aug 96	8.25¼	8.11	8.20½	+0.00¾	9,778
Sep 96	8.07	7.95	8.04	+0.00¾	5,472
Nov 96	8.00	7.84	7.94	+0.02½	69,364
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 73,192					
Mon's open int 206,895 up 1664					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
May 96	6.54	6.35	6.53½	+0.25½	9,109
Jul 96	6.19½	6.02	6.15½	+0.21	60,180
Sep 96	6.21	6.01	6.11	+0.18½	13,715
Dec 96	6.29	6.01	6.17½	+0.22½	15,119
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 12,157					
Mon's open int 100,388 off 1545					
Livestock					
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 96	58.30	56.55	56.55	-1.50	607
Jun 96	58.40	57.32	57.37	-1.45	38,582
Aug 96	60.50	59.70	59.77	-0.83	24,418
Oct 96	62.60	61.80	61.87	-1.05	15,255
Dec 96	61.35	60.40	60.45	-1.00	10,234
Feb 97	61.80	61.10	61.15	-0.80	7,321
Est. sales 22,729 Mon's. sales 20,412					
Mon's open int 97,075 up 1937					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 96	50.90	50.10	50.55	-0.57	1,593
May 96	50.50	49.92	49.92	-1.50	4,688
Aug 96	53.10	52.00	52.20	-1.27	9,823
Sep 96	54.55	53.50	53.80	-1.15	1,999
Oct 96	56.25	55.15	55.40	-1.02	2,886
Nov 96	57.70	56.70	57.27	-0.63	7,388
Est. sales 6,104 Mon's. sales 5,325					
Mon's open int 25,287 up 118					
HOGS-Live(2/97 Lean) (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 96	57.20	56.40	57.00	+0.63	948
Jun 96	59.95	58.85	58.97	-0.78	19,438
Jul 96	57.97	56.90	56.97	-0.73	7,753
Aug 96	54.55	53.40	53.72	-0.48	5,466
Oct 96	49.35	48.65	49.00	-0.10	3,882
Dec 96	51.35	50.80	51.07		3,678
Est. sales 9,078 Mon's. sales 9,291					
Mon's open int 42,659 off 1309					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	81.00	78.80	79.22	-0.95	4,361
Jul 96	80.40	78.25	78.57	-1.13	4,426
Aug 96	77.75	76.22	76.42	-0.28	1,316
Feb 97	76.30	74.90	74.95	+0.65	391
Mar 97	75.00	75.00	75.00	+2.00	12
May 98			78.00	+1.05	3
Est. sales 3,678 Mon's. sales 3,050					
Mon's open int 10,467 off 85					
Food					
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
May 96	1375	1330	1342	-11	446
Jul 96	1398	1356	1360	-10	34,317
Sep 96	1411	1372	1376	-10	15,848
Dec 96	1413	1385	1390	-3	16,466
Mar 97	1424	1397	1402	-6	11,976
Est. sales 12,095 Mon's. sales 10,166					
Mon's open int 93,162 up 612					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	132.50	126.70	127.05	-3.20	2,034
Jul 96	130.50	126.45	126.90	-4.05	17,800
Sep 96	129.00	125.50	125.70	-3.40	4,526
Dec 96	126.75	124.00	124.00	-4.30	2,317
Est. sales 11,000 Mon's. sales 13,043					
Mon's open int 27,333 up 2601					
SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	11.20	11.04	11.06	-0.05	17,241
Jul 96	10.75	10.65	10.66	+0.05	54,984
Oct 96	10.71	10.62	10.67	+0.07	33,906
Mar 97	10.63	10.56	10.61	+0.05	32,256
Est. sales 17,991 Mon's. sales 21,390					
Mon's open int 137,606 off 978					
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	133.90	132.50	133.85	+0.65	7,797
Jul 96	132.50	130.60	132.45	+1.00	7,517
Sep 96	130.00	129.25	130.25	+0.35	2,952
Nov 96	126.00	125.50	125.80	-0.10	946
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 5,187					
Mon's open int 22,603 up 311					
Metals					
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Apr 96	393.20	391.40	391.30	-0.20	47
May 96			392.08	-0.20	2
Jun 96	394.50	393.20	393.40	-0.20	102,127
Aug 96	396.60	395.70	395.70	-0.20	20,837
Oct 96	398.30	398.20	398.10	-0.20	5,556
Dec 96	401.40	400.50	400.50	-0.20	24,474
Feb 97			402.90	-0.30	5,125
Apr 97	406.00	406.00	405.40	-0.30	4,897
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 20,730					
Mon's open int 282,661 up 2993					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 96	123.70	123.10	123.25	-0.45	1,548
May 96	123.20	121.60	121.70	-1.05	16,250
Jun 96	121.70	120.60	120.60	-0.65	7,274
Jul 96	120.60	119.30	119.50	-0.65	14,174
Aug 96	118.80	118.80	118.30	-0.70	565
Sep 96	118.30	117.00	117.20	-0.75	3,885
Oct 96			116.10	-0.65	492
Nov 96	115.00	115.00	115.05	-0.65	382
Dec 96	114.70	113.80	114.00	-0.65	5,772
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 8,590					
Mon's open int 49,410 up 282					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
Apr 96			531.2	-0.9	1
May 96	535.5	531.0	531.5	-1.0	36,482
Jul 96	540.5	536.0	536.7	-0.8	37,584
Sep 96	546.0	540.5	541.5	-0.7	11,876
Dec 96	553.5	550.0	548.8	-0.6	8,530
Jan 97			551.9	-0.6	6
Mar 97	561.8	556.0	556.4	-0.5	3,320
May 97			561.3	-0.5	779
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 18,410					
Mon's open int 101,968 off 1583					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Apr 96			412.70	-2.30	15
Jul 96	409.50	407.00	407.70	-0.30	19,982
Oct 96	412.00	411.00	410.90	-0.30	3,354
Jan 97			413.70	-0.30	1,097
Apr 97			416.40	-0.30	954
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 2,716					
Mon's open int 25,362 off 444					

هدية من الأهرام

EUROPE

Standard Chartered To Sell Unit to SBC

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Standard Chartered PLC and Swiss Bank Corp. have agreed on general terms of a deal for SBC to buy most of Standard's private banking business, the two banks announced Tuesday.

The statement, confirming market rumors, said the sale of the private banking business was part of Standard Chartered's strategy of focusing on its major activities and followed the disposal of its fund management, trust and securities companies.

Standard Chartered is based in Britain but operates mainly in Asia.

The banks did not disclose terms of the deal but said completion would depend on detailed contract negotiations. Standard Chartered added that further announcements were not expected for some time.

Some analysts estimated the value of the deal at $100 million to $150 million.

SBC, the third-biggest bank in Switzerland, said it wished to expand its market share in the private-banking business and in the high-growth Asian region.

Standard Chartered's international private-banking business has about 4,000 private clients with more than $5 billion of assets under management. It has a leading market position in private banking in Asia and has operations in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan as well as in Geneva, the island of Jersey, Vancouver and Dubai.

Standard Chartered said its personal-banking and custody services would not be affected by the transaction.

Thomas Staffelbach, a spokesman for SBC, said the bank was considering other acquisitions.

"We'll keep expanding our private-banking business because it's the most profitable and very stable," he said.

"We'll grow both organically and possibly by acquisitions."

SBC does not disclose the size of its private-banking assets. The company has 82 private-banking branches, 25 of them outside Switzerland, and has representative offices in 29 countries.

The Swiss bank said that by the end of last year, the share of its private-banking assets managed for investors outside Switzerland had risen to 13 percent.

Standard Chartered sold its unprofitable securities unit in January, a move that prompted speculation that Standard Chartered would sell other businesses or that the bank itself might be a target for a takeover.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFX)

■ Holderbank Sees Stable Net

Holderbank Financière Glarus AG, the world's biggest cement company, said it expected its net profit to be little changed this year as a slump in the European construction industry hurt the market, Bloomberg Business News reported.

The company, which previously said net profit rose 1 percent, to 629 million Swiss francs ($511.9 million) last year, also said the rise of the dollar could help earnings.

Holderbank generates about half its sales in dollars or in currencies pegged to the dollar. The Swiss franc gained 13 percent against the dollar in 1995. Holderbank also said its pace of acquisitions and divestments would not slacken in the future.

Caution at Cable & Wireless

Firm Hedges Against Failure of BT Merger

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Cable & Wireless PLC is prepared to bring forward its full-year results announcement by three weeks, to early May, and to announce the appointment of a new chief executive the same day if merger talks with British Telecommunications PLC fall through, a source close to the talks said Tuesday.

The source said Cable & Wireless had taken the initiative to establish the early-May deadline to try to accelerate the negotiations with BT. Cable & Wireless wants to see a resolution in the talks, as the prospect of a merger has prevented it from naming a new chief executive and prompted morale-damaging uncertainty within the company, the source said.

The source said the group's efforts to secure a top-flight chief executive to succeed Jim Ross, who stepped down last year, had been undiminished by the reopening in earnest of merger talks with BT in late March.

The intensive search for a new chief reflected the caution within Cable & Wireless about whether the merger will go through, said the source, who added that there was "a 60-40 chance the merger will not go ahead."

Cable & Wireless's results are currently scheduled for release May 23, and analysts have predicted the company will say its pretax profit for the year ended March 31 rose to about £1.25 billion ($1.88 billion) from £844.1 million the previous year.

The merger would create one of the largest phone companies in the world, combining the companies' domestic strengths with Cable & Wireless's Asian presence and BT's links across Europe and in North America. It also would give a boost to BT's efforts to establish a strong presence in Asia, which its chief executive, Sir Peter L. Bonfield, has identified as a key target for expansion.

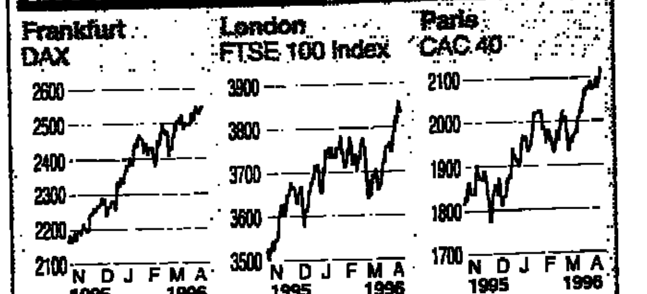
Cable & Wireless would benefit from BT's series of fledgling national alliances in Europe, as well as its link with MCI Communications Corp. of the United States.

Cable & Wireless's crown jewel is its 57.5 percent stake in Hongkong Telecom. In the six months ended Sept. 30, Hongkong Telecom accounted for £405 million of its parent's £616 million in operating profit.

One prickly issue for the two companies, however, will be their competing alliances in Germany.

(AFX, IHT)

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Tuesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	552.25	552.33	-0.01
Brussels	Stock Exchange	9,056.51	9,060.00	-0.04
Frankfurt	DAX	2,550.18	2,545.91	+0.17
Copenhagen	Stock Market	398.76	397.06	+0.43
Helsinki	HEX General	1,914.73	1,902.77	+0.63
Oslo	OBX	456.62	454.59	+0.45
London	FTSE 100	3,833.80	3,852.70	-0.51
Madrid	Stock Exchange	357.07	357.93	-0.24
Milan	MIBTEL	10,442.00	10,422.00	+0.19
Paris	CAC 40	2,111.98	2,116.54	-0.22
Stockholm	SX 16	2,057.90	2,067.47	-0.46
Vienna	ATX	1,115.06	1,114.99	+0.01
Zurich	SPI	2,339.94	2,350.65	-0.46

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Sandoz Stockholders Approve Merger

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BASEL — Sandoz AG shareholders backed a $36 billion merger with Ciba-Geigy AG on Tuesday that would create the world's second-biggest drug company, with products including Gerber baby foods and the pain-killing medicine Voltaren.

The merged company, to be called Novartis AG, would have a market value of $80 billion and annual sales of $22 billion, surpassing Merck & Co. in size and leaving it not far behind Glaxo Wellcome PLC of Britain.

More than half of Sandoz's share capital was represented at the meeting, and the merger was approved by 99.56 percent of the votes cast. Analysts said they expected Ciba holders to approve the plan Wednesday.

Sandoz required a two-thirds majority of votes cast by its shareholders. At Ciba's meeting, at least half the company's share capital must be represented, and an absolute majority must back the plan.

If Ciba shareholders approve the merger, the only remaining hurdle will be regulatory approval, which is expected by September. Daniel Vasella, a Sandoz executive who would become chief executive of Novartis, said the planned sale of Ciba-Geigy's textile-dye, pigment, additive and polymer activities as a new company would occur within a year.

(Bloomberg, AFX)

Very briefly:

- **Renault SA**'s chairman, Louis Schweitzer, said the car division showed signs of improvements in the first quarter after a loss he said came to 1 billion francs ($195 million) in 1995. The automaker also aims to cut production costs by 8 percent, or 3,000 francs a car, over two years.
- **Rémy Cointreau SA** said its revenue in the year ended March 31 rose 1.2 percent, to 6.8 billion francs. The spirits and wine concern, which had profit of 276 million francs in its previous year, said it expected to report lower profit for the latest year.
- **Babcock International Group PLC** expects to post pretax profit of £3 million ($4.5 million) for the year ended March 31, significantly below market forecasts. The industrial company cited political tensions between Britain and Saudi Arabia and the "uncompetitiveness" of German manufacturing and industry.
- **Stena Line AB** blamed high costs and the success of Eurotunnel as its first-quarter loss widened 24 percent from a year earlier, to 504 million kronor ($75.3 million).
- **The Confederation of British Industry**'s survey of industrial forecasts for the first four months of 1996 was weak as business confidence declined. Economists said this could provide room for a further interest-rate cut in Britain.
- **Hapag-Lloyd AG** will propose a 1995 dividend payment of 16 Deutsche marks ($10.55) a share, compared with 14 DM a share on 1994 earnings. The transport company reported a 3 percent rise in net profit, to 65 million DM
- **Germany**'s producer-price index fell 0.1 percent in March from February and 0.3 percent on the year.
- **Harvey Nichols** will offer its shares at 270 pence, valuing the London department store at nearly £150 million, on the stock market this week.

AFX, Reuters, Bloomberg, AP

3 More BET Holders Reject Rival's Bid

Bloomberg Business News

LONDON — BET PLC's chances of surviving as an independent company rose Tuesday as three large investors said they would refuse a £2.04 billion ($3.08 billion) bid from Rentokil Group PLC, a rival commercial-services company in Britain.

"It's gone from being a walkover to being a very closely contested battle," said Nigel Utley, an analyst at the brokerage concern Greig Middleton & Co.

Rentokil's offer, which the company has said is its final bid, is due to expire Friday. Prudential Portfolio Managers, which holds 5.26 percent of BET, Barclays de Zoete Wedd Investment Management, with 2.91 percent, and Hermes Investment Management Ltd., with 1.57 percent, all said they would not accept the offer, according to BET.

Last week, M&G Investment Management, which owns 7.5 percent, also said it would refuse the offer.

A spokesman for BET called the latest announcements "very good news."

Airbus Gets Northwest Order

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Airbus Industrie said Tuesday that Northwest Airlines Inc. had signed a contract placing firm orders for 20 A-320 aircraft, finalizing the carrier's previously announced intentions.

The order, with a catalog value of $1 billion, makes Northwest the largest airline customer for the A-320, with 70 aircraft in service or on order. Northwest is to take delivery of 13 A-320s in 1998 and seven in 1999.

"This is our first U.S. airline contract this year," said David Voskuhal, an Airbus spokesman. "We're happy to expand presence on the North American continent." In 1989, Northwest became Airbus's first North American customer for A-320s. The new aircraft will replace older planes being retired.

(Knight-Ridder, Bloomberg)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Tuesday, April 23

Prices in local currencies.

Telekurs

Amsterdam

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	87.20	85.60	86.70	85.70
Aegon	82.30	80.90	81	82
Ahold	84.80	84.10	84.30	84.10
Akzo Nobel	195.80	194.50	194.90	195.20
Bols Wess cva	34.30	33.70	33.90	34.20
CSM cva	81.80	80.20	81.70	81.20
Dordtsche Pet	256	253	254.20	254
DSM	171.80	169.70	170.60	171.80
Elsevier	26.50	26.30	26.30	26.50
Fortis Amev	124.20	121.80	124	123
G-Broc cva	53.80	53.20	53.40	53.70
Hagemeyer	117.50	116	116.50	117
Heineken	367.40	362.20	366.50	362
Hoogovens	63.90	62.90	63.20	63.90
Hunt Douglas	108.60	107.70	108.60	108.50
ING cva	127.30	125.50	127.20	125.60
KLM	60.90	60.20	60.50	61.30
KNP BT	44.20	43.40	43.70	43.90
KPN	64.50	63.30	63.50	64
Nedlloyd Gp	38.20	37.20	37.50	38
Nutricia	182	178.20	179.80	177.10
Oce Grinten	160.80	160.10	160.70	160.30
Pakhoed	46.50	45.90	46.30	45.90
Philips Elec	61.40	59.40	60.50	61.30
Polygram	104.20	102.50	104.20	103
Randstad Hdg	106.90	102.50	106.50	102.50
Robeco	128.40	127.80	127.90	128
Rodamco	47.60	47.30	47.50	47.30
Rolinco	138.10	137.90	137.90	137.40
Rorento	96.10	96	96	95.70
Royal Dutch	242.40	239.70	241.90	241.10
Stork	48.90	48	48.10	48.80
Unilever cva	236.70	234	234.50	236.70
VNU	30.10	28.90	29.20	28.80
Wolters Kl cva	194.20	192	192.50	193

EOE index: 552.25
Previous: 552.33

Bangkok

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	432	412	430	412
Bangkok Bk F	366	360	362	368
Krung Thai Bk	120	116	128	118
PTT Explor	326	322	324	326
Siam Cement F	1276	1252	1258	1276
Telecomasia	69.50	68.50	69	69.50
Thai Airways	58	56.50	58	57
Thai Farm Bk F	296	284	284	292
Thai Teleph	60.50	58.50	59	60.50
Utd Comm	348	344	344	350

SET index: 1296.44
Previous: 1295.22

Bombay

Monday, April 22

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Assoc Cement	4015	3925	3930	3930
Grasim Ind	610	600	610	610
Hindalco Ind	1290	1255	1260	1260
Indian Hotels	770	745	745	745
ITC	275	264	265	265
Larsen Toubro	274	265	269	269
Reliance Ind	249	236.50	236.50	236.50
Tata Eng Loco	492	476	478	478
Tata Iron St	230.50	226	226.75	226.75

Sensitive index: 3718.79
Previous: 3710.79

Brussels

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Arbed	3610	3550	3570	3605
Barco Ind	5020	4975	5000	5000
BBL	5920	5860	5860	5920
Bekaert	25950	25200	25600	26000
CBR	12350	12300	12325	12350
CMB	2730	2700	2715	2735
Cockerill	174	172	173	173
Colruyt	10225	10075	10100	10275
Delhaize Lion	1488	1456	1476	1464
Electrabel	7030	7000	7020	7020
Electrafina	3030	2935	2965	3030
Fortis AG	3875	3820	3855	3875
GIB	1422	1414	1418	1416
GBL	4135	4100	4130	4140
Gen Banque	10875	10825	10850	10875
Glaverbel	3540	3420	3460	3540
Kredietbank	8780	8700	8760	8740
Mosane	2180	2180	2180	2180
Petrofina	9030	8970	8990	9000
Powerfin	4260	4230	4250	4240
Recticel	305	305	385	305
Royale Belge	6460	6400	6440	6460
Soc Gen Belg	2460	2435	2440	2450
Solvay	18475	18350	18450	18575
Tessenderlo	13350	13175	13300	13250
Tractebel	12875	12750	12825	12900
UCB	54700	53800	54150	54750
Union Miniere	2415	2395	2410	2420

Stock Exchange index: 9056.51
Previous: 9060.00

Copenhagen

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Carlsberg B	332.82	329	330	330
Danisco	298	292	296	293
Den Danske Bk	394	388	391	390
D/S Svendborg A	188000	185721	185721	187000
D/S 1912 A	129500	128972	128972	128000
East Asiatic Co	124	119	124	122.46
FLS Ind B	546.35	539	545	540
ISS Intl Svc B	178	174	175	176
Nvo Nordisk B	768	758	759	756.80
Radiometer B	441	440	440	438
Sophus Ber B	703	697	698	698
Tele Danmk B	332.50	290	291	290
Unidanmark A	278	274	274	274.31

Stock Market index: 398.76
Previous: 397.06

Frankfurt

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMB	800	800	820	820
AEG	170	169.60	170	169.30
Allianz Hdg	2657	2641	2642	2670
Altana	972	961.50	970	971
Asko Deutsche	941	930	930	935
Badenwerk	510.50	510.50	510.50	511
BASF	426.40	425	425.50	425.70
Bayer Hypo Bk	37.48	37.15	37.25	37.26
Bay.Vereinsbank	45.40	45.18	45.15	45.30
Beiersdorf	524.30	521.50	523.60	519
Berliner Kraft	414	413	413	413
BHF Bank	39.70	39.30	39.30	39.65
BMW	839	835	839	832
CKAG Colonia	1075	1070	1070	1080
Commerzbank	337	336	336	334.60
Daimler Benz	847.80	841.50	846.60	839.50
Degussa	571	563	571	557.80
Deutsche Bank	74.97	74.10	74.20	74.95
Dresdner Bank	39.20	38.90	38.90	39.16
Heidelbg Zmt	965	951	951	960
Henkel	588	585	587.50	587
Hochtief	601	594	594	604
Hoechst	527.30	524.50	526.50	526.50
Holzmann Ph.	493	490	492	493
Karstadt	578	576	578	576
Kaufhof Hdg	495	492	492.50	494
Linde	983	972	980.50	970
Lufthansa ord	259.80	258	258.30	257
MAN	427	423	426.50	428
Mannesmann	566.50	562	564.80	565
Muench Rueck	2870	2852	2852	2874
Preussag	421	419	420	422.50
PWA	200	191	196.50	198
RWE	61.45	61.10	61.10	61.35
SAP pfd	201	197	199.50	195.80
Schering	116.30	115.50	115.95	115.50
Schmalb Lub	245	238	245	236.50
Siemens	839.30	835.50	836.80	831
Suedzucker	728	728	728	721
Thyssen	290.80	288	290.30	288.50
Veba	78.10	77.55	77.67	77.30
VEW	473.30	473.30	472	472
Viag	601.50	599.90	601.40	599
Volkswagen	547.25	543.80	546.75	540
Wella	725.50	723	722	727

DAX index: 2550.18
Previous: 2545.91

Helsinki

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cultor 1	210	205	208	204
Enso-Gutzeit R	37.50	36.50	37.30	36.50
Huhtamaki IF	160	158	160	157
Kesko	55	53.50	54.50	54
Kone BF	525	515	525	515
Kymmene F	132.20	130	130.50	131.20
Merita A	9.95	9.70	9.85	9.75
Metra BF	197	195	196.50	195
Metsa-Serla B	34.80	33.50	33.70	169
Nokia Prf F	171	168	170.50	168
Outokumpu A	86	84.50	85	84
Rautaruukki	35	34.50	34.70	34.50
Repola	94.10	92.80	93.10	93.70
Stockmann A	249	249	249	249
Valmet A	63.20	62.20	62.90	62.50

HEX General index: 1914.73
Previous: 1902.77

Hong Kong

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	8.85	8.65	8.80	8.75
Bk East Asia	26.85	26.20	26.25	26.70
Cathay Pacific	12.80	12.65	12.80	12.70
Cheung Kong	55	54	55	54
China Light	36.10	35.80	36	35.80
Chin Estates	6.90	6.80	6.85	6.80
Citic Pacific	31	30.60	31	30.80
Cons Elec Pwr	12.60	12.50	12.50	12.55
Dao Heng Bk	31.20	30.90	31.10	31.40
First Pacific	10.15	9.90	10.05	10.10
Great Eagle	22.40	22.05	22.05	22.35
Guangdong Inv	4.88	4.78	4.78	4.85
Guoco Group	41.60	40.40	40.60	41.90
Hang Lung	14.65	14.35	14.40	14.55
Hang Seng Bk	79.50	76.75	77.25	79.50
Henderson Inv	7	6.95	6.95	6.95
Henderson Ld	55.75	54.25	55	55.25
HKR Intl	8.55	8.35	8.45	8.45
HK Aircraft	20.10	19.80	19.90	20
HK China Gas	12.75	12.55	12.65	12.70
HK Electric	25.35	25.15	25.35	25.15
HK Shang Hits	13.15	12.90	13.10	13.15
HK Telecomm	15	14.85	14.90	14.85
Hopewell Hdgs	4.63	4.55	4.58	4.58
HSBC Hdgs	117	115	115.50	116
Hutchison Wh	48.10	47.60	47.80	47.60
Hysan Dev	24.10	23.85	24.05	23.95
Johnson El 500	17.50	17.30	17.40	17.45
Miramar Hotel	17.15	16.85	16.90	17.10
Natl Mutual	7	6.95	7	7
New World	34.90	33.80	34.20	34.50
Oriental Press	3.73	3.65	3.68	3.63
Orient Telecom	3.23	3.08	3.10	3.15
Shangri-La	10.60	10.55	10.60	10.50
SHK Props	73	72.25	73	72.75
Shun Tak Hdgs	5.50	5.40	5.45	5.50
Sino Land Co.	7.75	7.60	7.70	7.70
Sth China Post	5.10	5.05	5.10	5
Swire Pac A	63.75	63	63.25	63
Tsim Sha Tsui	9.15	9	9.05	9.10
TV Broadcasts	31	30.80	31	30.80
Wharf Hdgs	28.75	28.40	28.50	28.65
Wheelock	15.60	15.25	15.50	15.60

Hang Seng index: 10889.10
Previous: 10918.90

Jakarta

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Astra Intl	2900	2875	2875	2900
Barito Pacific	2525	2500	2500	2550
Gudang Garm	34300	33800	33825	34325
Indah Kiat	2400	2325	2325	2375
Indocement	9200	9100	9125	9050
Indofood	11100	10700	11000	10675
Indorayon	2950	2900	2900	2950
Indosat	8275	8225	8225	8300
Kalbe Farma	6950	6850	6875	6975
Sampoerna	26100	25600	25850	26250

Composite index: 627.83
Previous: 628.39

Johannesburg

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AngloAm-Corp	290	286	286	290
AngloAm Gold	431	430	430	431
AngloAm Ind	198	198	198	201
Barlow	53	52.25	52.25	53.50
C.G. Smith	24.85	24.75	24.85	25
De Beers	137	136	136	137
Driefontein	68.75	68	68	68.50
Freegold	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75
Fst Natl Bk	33.75	33.75	33.75	34
Gencor	16.20	16.15	16.15	16.30
GFSA	140	140	140	141
Iscor	4	3.96	4	3.99
Johnnies Ind	55.50	55.50	55.50	56
Kloof Gold	47	46.75	47	47
Liberty Life	130	130	130	133
Nedcor	62.75	62.75	62.75	63
Rembrandt Gp	37.50	36	36.25	37.75
Richemont	63.25	62.50	63	63.50
Rust Platinum	74	73.75	74	74
SA Breweries	138.50	135.25	135.50	138.75
Sappi	56.75	55	55.25	56.75
Sasol	46	44.25	44.80	46.25
SBIC	180	180	180	180
Tiger Oats	59	58.50	58.50	59.50

All Market index: 7013.27
Previous: 7070.24

Kuala Lumpur

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Genting	22.40	22	22.10	22.30
Hicom Hldgs	7.65	7.25	7.35	7.60
Mal Banking	23.70	23.50	23.70	23.60
Mal Intl Ship F	8.05	7.65	7.95	7.70
Public Bank F	7.30	7.25	7.25	7.30
Resorts World	14.40	14.20	14.30	14.30
Sime Darby	7	6.85	6.90	7
Telekom Mal	22.80	22.70	22.80	22.70
Tenaga	10.60	10.30	10.40	10.50
Utd Engineers	17.60	17.30	17.40	17.50

Composite index: 1173.88
Previous: 1174.23

London

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	5.77	5.67	5.69	5.79
Allied Domecq	5.04	4.96	5	5.02
Anglian Water	6.15	6.08	6.14	6.12
Argyll Group	3.34	3.30	3.32	3.35
Arjo Wiggins	1.95	1.89	1.91	1.93
Asda Group	1.15	1.12	1.12	1.15
Assoc Br Foods	4.28	4.12	4.12	4.20
BAA	5.55	5.49	5.52	5.55
Barclays	7.47	7.42	7.46	7.47
Bass	7.89	7.83	7.87	7.98
BAT Ind	5.31	5.07	5.12	5.12
Bank Scotland	2.63	2.58	2.60	2.62
BICC	3.57	3.47	3.52	3.53
Blue Circle	3.72	3.57	3.61	3.71
BOC Group	9.12	9.03	9.06	9.09
Boots	6.40	6.35	6.39	6.40
Bowater	4.10	4	4.01	4.02
BPB Ind	3.34	3.29	3.32	3.37
Brit Aerosp	8.74	8.61	8.62	8.78
Brit Airways	5.54	5.50	5.51	5.58
Brit Gas	2.52	2.41	2.50	2.50
Brit Petm	5.90	5.85	5.88	5.90
Brit Steel	2	1.98	1.99	1.99
Brit Telecom	3.76	3.71	3.74	3.78
BTR	3.26	3.18	3.20	3.22
Burmah Cast	10.47	10.35	10.38	10.46
Cable Wireless	5.35	5.28	5.31	5.37
Cadbury Schw	5.32	5.25	5.30	5.26
Caradon	2.34	2.26	2.29	2.36
Carlton Comm	4.59	4.50	4.58	4.57
Coats Viyella	1.98	1.93	1.93	2.02
Comml Union	5.83	5.76	5.77	5.83
Courtaulds	4.47	4.41	4.43	4.47
De La Rue	7.30	7.22	7.29	7.30
Eng China Cl	3.07	2.98	3.01	3.08
Enterprise Oil	4.47	4.39	4.45	4.48
Fam Colonial	1.68	1.66	1.68	1.67
Genl Accident	6.43	6.37	6.37	6.43
GEC	3.68	3.52	3.55	3.59
GKN	9.92	8.76	9.80	9.96
Glaxo	8.13	7.90	7.90	8.04
Granada Gp	8.39	8.30	8.35	8.37
Grand Met	4.52	4.40	4.48	4.53
GRE	2.41	2.37	2.39	2.43
Guinness	4.76	4.70	4.75	4.77
GUS	7.58	7.39	7.48	7.69
Hanson	2.02	1.97	1.98	2
Hillsdown Hdg	1.87	1.76	1.82	1.85
HSBC Hldgs	9.93	9.81	9.87	10
ICI	9.34	9.25	9.31	9.18
Inchcape	3.12	3.05	3.07	3.10
Kingfisher	5.85	5.75	5.79	5.89
Ladbroke	2	1.92	1.96	1.94
Land Sec	6.67	6.63	6.65	6.41
Laporte	7.30	7.08	7.29	7.14
Lasmo	1.93	1.88	1.92	1.90
Legal Genl Grp	7.27	7.20	7.22	7.27
Lloyds Abbey	5.47	5.43	5.43	5.43
Lloyds TSB Gp	3.25	3.20	3.22	3.24
London Elec	8.58	8.40	8.46	8.50
Lucas Ind	2.28	2.17	2.18	2.26
Marks Spencer	4.62	4.38	4.54	4.62
MEPC	4.34	4.30	4.32	4.32
Mercury Asset	9.01	8.95	9	9.01
Midlands Elec	4.20	4.06	4.09	4.15
Natl Power	6.05	5.90	5.94	6.04
NatWest	6.37	6.29	6.32	6.30
News Intl	3.31	3.30	3.30	3.30
Utd Utilities	6.35	6.23	6.34	6.23
Nthern Foods	1.85	1.80	1.80	1.82
P&O	5.32	5.25	5.27	5.39
Pearson	7.30	7.02	7.20	7.31
Pilkington	2.16	2.12	2.14	2.14
Powergen	6.10	5.96	6.05	6.06
Prudential	4.60	4.53	4.55	4.58
Rank Org	5.47	5.35	5.40	5.46
Reckitt Colm	7.12	6.95	7.12	6.98
Redland	4.28	4.17	4.23	4.27
Reed Intl	11.73	10.65	11.57	11.74
Rentokil	3.61	3.55	3.59	3.54
Reuters Hdgs	7.83	7.56	7.64	7.85
RMC Group	10.86	10.72	10.72	10.78
Rolls Royce	2.40	2.33	2.37	2.41
Royal Bk Scot	5.21	5.13	5.17	5.17
RTZ reg	10.47	10.42	10.44	10.47
Royal Insur	3.68	3.57	3.65	3.70
Sainsbury	3.70	3.62	3.66	3.65
Schroders	12.34	12.20	12.30	12.45
Scot Newcastle	6.89	6.81	6.82	6.88
Scot Power	4.04	3.69	3.92	3.95
Sears	0.99	0.93	0.99	0.97
Severn Trent	6.08	6	6	6.04
Shell Trnsp reg	8.85	8.62	8.65	8.69
Siebe	8.75	8.68	8.68	8.70
Smith Nephew	1.85	1.80	1.82	1.81
Smith (WH)	4.97	4.93	4.93	4.97
SmithKline cA	6.58	6.37	6.44	6.44
Smiths Ind	7.13	7.06	7.07	7.13
Sthern Elec	9.05	8.87	9.02	8.92
Stand Charter	6.22	6.14	6.16	6.14
Sun Alliance	3.62	3.55	3.55	3.61
Tate & Lyle	4.88	4.83	4.88	4.91
Tesco	2.93	2.81	2.83	2.83
Thames Water	5.88	5.77	5.84	5.80
Thorn EMI	18.50	18.30	18.37	18.23
3i Group	4.52	4.47	4.52	4.46
TI Group	5.41	5.32	5.38	5.44
Tomkins	2.68	2.62	2.63	2.66
Unilever	12.30	12.20	12.21	12.23
Utd Biscuits	2.41	2.35	2.41	2.41
Utd News	6.79	6.72	6.76	6.81
Vendome uts	5.84	5.75	5.80	5.76
Vodafone	2.89	2.38	2.56	2.65
Whitbread	7.50	7.45	7.47	7.48
Williams Hdgs	3.55	3.44	3.50	3.54
Wolseley	4.75	4.62	4.63	4.77
Zeneca	13.87	13.50	13.86	13.55

FT-SE 100 index: 3833.80
Previous: 3852.70

Madrid

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	15290	15020	15100	15270
ACESA	1340	1320	1335	1340
Argentaria	5370	5270	5370	5280
BBV	4965	4910	4925	4955
Banesto	846	837	843	845
Bankinter	13450	13370	13400	13430
Bco Central Hisp	2670	2655	2665	2675
Bco Exterior	3080	3075	3075	3100
Bco Popular	22100	21590	21720	21930
Bco Santander	6210	6100	6110	6210
CEPSA	3960	3925	3950	3945
Corp Mapfre	6580	6500	6530	6600
Dragados	1825	1815	1820	1820
Endesa	7800	7750	7790	7780
FECSA	880	867	871	883
Fomento Const	11890	10930	10960	11050
Gas Natural	23550	23150	23340	23500
Hidroel Cantab	4250	4210	4210	4250
Iberdrola	1240	1220	1225	1240
Pryca	2940	2890	2930	2925
Repsol	4645	4570	4580	4640
Sevillana Elec	995	983	985	993
Tabacalera	5890	5640	5750	5680
Telefonica	2135	2110	2135	2125
Union Fenosa	738	729	734	741
Valenc Cement	1555	1400	1460	1430

Stock Exchange index: 357.07
Previous: 357.93

Manila

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ayala A	26	25.50	26	26
Ayala Land	42.50	41.50	42	41.50
Manila Elec A	157	155	156	156
Metro Bank	710	700	705	705
Petron	11.50	11.25	11.25	11.25
Phil Long Dist	1450	1410	1440	1395
San Miguel A	46	45	45.50	45
San Miguel B	81.50	80.50	81	81
SM Prime Hdg	8.20	7.90	8.10	7.90

PSE index: 2996.60
Previous: 2973.87

Mexico

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	108.00	106.30	107.90	108.50
Cemex B	32.15	31.50	31.90	32.15
Cifra C	10.14	10.00	10.06	10.18
Empresas ICA	104.10	102.50	103.40	104.40
Emp Moderna	34.40	33.90	34.40	34.50
Femsa	23.20	22.40	23.20	22.70
Gpo Carso A1	56.40	55.60	55.70	56.80
Televisa CPO	118.30	116.80	117.70	119.20
TelMex L	13.46	13.30	13.40	13.68
Tribasa CPO	24.50	23.80	24.50	24.30

Bolsa index: 3284.48
Previous: 3251.23

Milan

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	14650	14105	14490	14400
Bca Comm Ital	3645	3500	3585	3570
Bca Naz Agricol	998	931	931	970
Bca Naz Lavoro	12645	12400	12450	12420
Bca di Roma	1620	1555	1590	1545
Bco Ambrosiano	4720	4535	4650	4560
Benetton	19650	18750	18795	19050
Credito Italiano	2050	1950	1970	2000
Fiat	5790	5480	5490	5705
Fondiaria	7540	7300	7415	7350
Generali Assic	40200	39350	39550	39800
IFIL	5390	5125	5195	5265
Italcementi	11550	10840	11200	11300
Italgas	5380	5130	5300	5285
Mediobanca	11445	10920	11070	11080
Montedison	980	901	915	996
Olivetti	913	885	900	887
Pirelli	2525	2405	2425	2440
RAS	17820	17250	17300	17350
Rinascente	10800	10650	10800	10790
S Paolo Torino	10800	10410	10515	10500
SME	1748	1735	1745	1733
Standa	17400	17300	17300	17300
Stet	5245	5050	5180	5000
Telecom Italia	3090	2990	3050	2990
Toro Assic	21850	21300	21400	21150

MIB Telematico index: 10442.00
Previous: 10422.00

Montreal

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alcan I	18½	18.30	18¼	18.40
Bank Montreal	32.70	32.55	32.60	32.70
Bce Mob Com	45	44.95	44.95	44½
Cdn Tire A	16¾	16½	16½	16.70
Cdn Util A	26¼	26.15	26.15	26
Cascades	6.55	6½	6½	6½
CT Finl Svc	26.40	26.40	26.40	26½
Extendicare	35½	35	35.20	35.30
Gaz Metro	15.15	15.05	15.15	15.05
Gt-West Lifeco	30½	30½	30½	29½
Hees Intl Bcp	16	15.70	15.85	15.70
Hudsons Bay	19¼	19.15	19.15	19.30
Imasco	25.65	25½	25.65	25½
Investors Grp	18¼	18.20	18.20	18.20
Loblaw Cos	33.20	33.20	33.20	33
Molson A	24¾	24.65	24.65	24¾
Natl Bk Canada	11½	11.35	11.40	11½
Oshawa A	23¼	23	23	23
Pancdn Petlm	53	53	53	53
Power Corp	20.65	20.40	20.45	20¾
Power Finl	35¾	35¼	35¼	35¾
Quebecor B	21.70	21.45	21.60	21.70
Rogers Comm B	12.65	12.60	12.65	12.85
Royal Bk Cda	32.85	32½	32.65	32.85
Sears Canada	7.10	7	7.05	7
Shell Cda A	46.60	46½	46½	46¾
Southam	15.80	15¾	15¾	15¾
Stelco A	6.70	6.60	6.60	6.60
Trilon Finl A	5.15	5	5	5

Industrials index: 2576.49
Previous: 2573.17

Oslo

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	127	121	121	126
Bergesen Dy B	116	112	116	111
Christiania Bk	15.70	15.40	15.70	15.40
Den Norske Bk	19.60	19.30	19.40	19.60
Dt Norsk Luft	331	321	328	326
Dyno Indust	143.50	141.50	143.50	142
Elkem	90.50	89	90	90
Hafslund A	189	186	188.50	185.50
Kvaerner	266.50	252	266.50	261
Leif Hoegh	90	89	89	90
Norsk Hydro	306	302.50	305.50	305
Norske Skog A	210	206	207	208
Orkla	330	300	328.50	331
Rieber B	138	136	138	134
Saga Petlm B	85	84	84	85.50
Schibsted	89	88.50	89	89
UniStorebr A	31.80	31.40	31.70	31.30

OBX index: 456.62
Previous: 454.59

Paris

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	797	783	792	799
AGF	139	135.60	138.20	137.50
Air Liquide	923	905	917	912
Alcatel Alsth	492.20	484.10	486.50	487.60
Axa	304	300.70	303	303
Bancaire	540	528	537	537
BNP	206.90	201.60	203	207.40
Bouygues	513	502	509	511
Canal Plus	1231	1206	1211	1231
Carrefour	3870	3829	3867	3840
CCF	244.40	241.60	244	244.90
Credit Local cl	392	386.50	386.50	392
Credit Lyon PC	190	183	183	188
Crown Cork Seal	240	232.10	236	234
Danone	787	770	775	784
Elf-Aquitaine	383.80	378.60	380	379.70
Eridania BS	875	843	852	862
Euro Disney	15.60	15	15.60	15.50
Eurotunnel uts	5.40	5.20	5.35	5.45
Gen. Eaux	569	558	560	569
Havas	441.80	435.20	437.50	439
Lafarge Cop	347.90	337.20	338	349
Legrand	950	941	950	945
L'Oreal	1579	1557	1569	1563
LVMH	1304	1286	1290	1297
Lyon. Eaux	530	524	527	528
Michelin B	258.90	254	258.90	253.50
Navig Mixte	758	742	742	755
Paribas A	328	324.70	326	325
Pechiney SA	243	235.50	243	236.20
Pernod Ricard	317	314.70	315.90	315.80
Peugeot Cit	748	736	742	745
Pinault-Print	1425	1398	1423	1400
Promodes	1448	1405	1427	1408
Renault	156	148	155.30	149.50
Rh-Poulenc A	127.90	126.50	127	127.30
Roussel-Uclaf	1270	1220	1240	1261
Sanofi	397.20	392	392.10	396
Schneider	248.40	245.30	247	246.40
Ste Generale	571	562	563	570
St Gobain	643	638	639	638
St Louis	1512	1490	1499	1490
Suez	214.40	209	209.20	213.50
Thomson CSF	144	140.30	142.20	143
Total B	351.50	348.50	349.60	347.50
UAP	110.90	108.70	109.30	110.60
Valeo	288.30	284	285	288.40

CAC-40 index: 2111.98
Previous: 2116.54

São Paulo

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bco Brasil Pfd	11.20	10.70	10.70	11.20
Banespa Pfd	3.50	3.39	3.42	3.40
Bradesco Pfd	10.15	9.90	10.15	10.10
Brahma Pfd	479.80	477.00	479.80	477.00
Cemig Pfd	24.30	23.80	24.15	24.20
CESP Pfd	33.10	32.90	33.10	33.10
Eletrobras B	260.00	258.00	258.00	260.50
Itaubanco Pfd	337.00	330.00	337.00	330.30
Light	346.00	342.00	344.00	348.00
Paranapan Pfd	11.10	10.50	10.50	11.10
Petrobras Pfd	116.50	115.50	116.00	118.00
Sid Nacional	28.50	28.30	28.30	28.70
Souza Cruz	7.51	7.33	7.51	7.30
Telebras Pfd	53.81	52.60	52.85	53.20
Telesp Pfd	178.00	168.00	175.50	174.00
Usiminas Pfd	1.12	1.10	1.11	1.11
CVRD Pfd	19.30	19.16	19.26	19.40

Bovespa index: 50443.30
Previous: 50796.93

Seoul

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Daewoo Heavy	8850	8510	8600	8800
Hyundai Eng	40900	39500	39700	40400
Hyundai Motor	39700	38600	38600	39500
Korea El Pwr	31900	31300	31500	31700
Korea Mob Tel	730000	705000	705000	699000
LG Electronics	24900	24200	24300	24600
Pohang Iron St	59200	58500	58500	58800
Samsung Elec	103500	100000	101500	100000
Samsung Hvy	17700	17000	17100	17500
Yukong	28400	27800	28000	28000

Composite index: 948.55
Previous: 958.61

Singapore

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cerebos Pac	12.50	12.30	12.40	12.30
City Devlts	12.80	12.10	12.20	12.90
Cycle Carriage	16.20	15.90	16	16.40
Dairy Farm Int *	0.93	0.92	0.93	0.92
DBS	9.70	9.50	9.55	9.75
DBS Land	5.65	5.35	5.35	5.60
Fraser & Neave	15.40	15	15.10	15.30
HK Land *	2.22	2.14	2.15	2.19
Hong Leong Fin	3.90	3.88	3.88	3.92
Jard Matheson *	8	7.70	7.80	7.95
Jard Strategic *	3.18	3.14	3.16	3.16
Keppel	12.80	12.30	12.40	12.20
Natsteel	2.73	2.71	2.72	2.72
Neptune Orient	1.58	1.55	1.55	1.56
OCBC foreign	19.80	18.90	18.90	20
O'Sea Union Bk	7	6.95	7	6.95
Sembawang	7.55	7.50	7.55	7.55
Sing Airlines F	14	13.50	13.70	14.10
Sing Petlm	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.81
Sing Press F	26.80	26.10	26.40	26.80
ST Auto F	3.06	3.04	3.06	3.06
ST Ship	2.51	2.50	2.50	2.51
Sing Telecomm	3.42	3.36	3.40	3.40
Straits Steam	4.96	4.88	4.96	4.96
Utd Industrial	1.47	1.43	1.43	1.48
Utd O'Sea Bk F	13.70	13.50	13.50	13.80
Wing Tai Hdgs	3.72	3.64	3.68	3.68

*: in U.S. dollars.

Straits Times index: 2378.73
Previous: 2378.96

Stockholm

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA BF	109.50	106.50	109.50	107.50
Asea AF	693	687	690	690
AssiDoman F	158	157	157.50	158
Astra AF	308	304	305.50	307.50
Atlas Copco AF	131.50	130	130.50	130
Avesta F	74	72.50	73	74.50
Electrolux BF	344	341	341	344
Ericsson BF	136.50	134.50	135.50	134.50
Hennes BF	475	469	469	472
Incentive AF	354	351	354	353
Investor BF	282.50	278	281	282
Kinnevik BF	253	250	251.50	253.50
MoDo BF	371	310	364	369
Sandvik BF	153	149	149.50	153
SCA BF	135	132	132	134.50
S-E Banken AF	53	51.50	52.50	52.50
Skandia Fors F	158.50	156	156.50	157
Skanska BF	217	213	214	217
SKF BF	156.50	154.50	155	156.50
SSAB BF	87.50	85.50	86	87.50
Stora AF	97	93	93	97
Sv Handles AF	144.50	139.50	143	139
Sydkraft AF	150	146	150	147
Trelleborg BF	93	91	91.50	93
Volvo BF	158.50	154.50	155	158.50

SX 16 index: 2057.90
Previous: 2067.47

Sydney

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	9.07	8.90	9.06	8.89
ANZ Bking	6.16	5.98	6.14	5.96
BHP	19.51	19.26	19.51	19.23
Boral	3.32	3.28	3.31	3.30
Brambles Ind.	16.85	16.64	16.85	16.52
Burns Philp	2.72	2.68	2.68	2.70
CBA	10.60	10.44	10.54	10.38
CC Amatil	14	13.35	13.95	13.40
Coles Myer	4.58	4.51	4.56	4.51
Comalco	7.91	7.70	7.90	7.70
CRA Ltd	20.40	19.96	20.34	19.94
CSR	4.47	4.38	4.46	4.38
Fosters Brew	2.34	2.29	2.32	2.28
GIO Australia	2.97	2.92	2.94	2.89
Goodman Fld	1.29	1.26	1.28	1.28
ICI Australia	12	11.55	11.88	11.50
John Fairfax	2.90	2.86	2.90	2.85
Lend Lease	19.31	19.16	19.16	19.21
Mayne Nickless	7.31	7.17	7.29	7.15
MIM Hdgs	1.94	1.91	1.93	1.94
Nat Aust Bank	11.48	11.22	11.34	11.14
News Corp	7.25	7.15	7.22	7.20
North Ltd	3.81	3.76	3.77	3.80
Pacific Dunlop	3.10	3.01	3.10	3.01
Pioneer Intl	3.74	3.65	3.74	3.63
Placer Pacific	2.43	2.34	2.40	2.33
Santos	4.46	4.40	4.45	4.40
Southcorp	3.44	3.38	3.42	3.35
Wesfarmers	7.98	7.93	7.96	7.91
Wstrn Mining	9.66	9.36	9.65	9.44
Westfield Trt	2.22	2.17	2.22	2.17
Westpac Bking	6.19	6.05	6.18	6.04
Woodside Pet	7.35	7.16	7.32	7.17
Woolworths	3.24	3.21	3.23	3.19

All Ordinaries index: 2308.10
Previous: 2267.40

Taipei

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Cement	48.60	46.90	47.60	47.80
Cathay Life Ins	182	162	162	174
Chang Hwa Bk	159	146.50	146.50	157
China Steel	26.40	25.30	25.30	26.50
China Trust	58.50	53.50	53.50	57
Evergreen	50.50	49.50	49.50	50
Far East Text	27	26.50	26.50	26.60
First Bank	159	147	147	158
Formosa CF	27.30	26.20	26.40	26.20
Hua Nan Bk	147.50	134	136.50	144
Hualon Teijran	21	20	20	20.20
ICBC	90.50	84	84	89
President Ent	38.80	37.50	37.60	38.30
Taiwan Cemt	53	50	50	51.50
Tatung	54	52.50	52.50	53

Stock Market index: 5907.01
Previous: 6052.85

Tokyo

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	1280	1270	1270	1280
All Nippon Air	1180	1160	1170	1180
Asahi Bank	1330	1290	1320	1290
Asahi Chem	820	813	816	820
Asahi Glass	1290	1270	1290	1280
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	2420	2380	2420	2380
Bk Yokohama	880	867	880	875
Bridgestone	1880	1810	1860	1820
Canon	2130	2100	2120	2110
Chiba Bank	936	926	934	925
Chubu Elec	2650	2620	2640	2600
Chugoku Elec	2500	2450	2490	2490
Daiei	1460	1440	1460	1450
Daiichi Kang	2130	2100	2120	2100
Daiwa Bank	799	791	799	789
Daiwa House	1670	1650	1650	1640
Daiwa Sec	1620	1610	1610	1610
Fanuc	4560	4510	4510	4550
Fuji Bank	2270	2240	2260	2240
Fuji Photo	3230	3190	3190	3200
Fujitsu	1090	1070	1070	1070
Hitachi	1120	1110	1110	1100
Honda Motor	2370	2350	2360	2350
IBJ	2870	2850	2850	2870
IHI	519	510	517	509
Itochu	804	795	800	794
Ito-Yokado	6170	6100	6140	6160
JAL	804	799	804	790
Jusco	3190	3130	3190	3110
Kajima	1190	1160	1170	1190
Kansai Elec	2540	2520	2540	2530
Kao	1420	1400	1410	1410
Kawa Steel	394	387	389	390
KDD	10300	10100	10200	10200
Kinki Nipp Ry	811	807	811	807
Kirin Brewery	1410	1400	1400	1410
Kobe Steel	336	328	331	337
Komatsu	1080	1050	1060	1050
Kubota	757	740	744	751
Kyocera	7900	7850	7860	7840
Kyushu Elec	2560	2540	2560	2560
LTCB	899	884	895	885
Marubeni	625	611	617	617
Marui	2280	2240	2250	2240
Matsu Elec Ind	1840	1820	1830	1830
Matsu Elec Wk	1160	1150	1160	1160
Mitsubishi	1480	1460	1480	1470
Mitsubishi Ch	578	571	578	582
Mitsubishi El	826	809	815	819
Mitsubishi Est	1460	1440	1440	1430
Mitsubishi Hvy	946	936	941	941
Mitsubishi Mat	950	945	947	948
Mitsubishi Tr	1830	1800	1820	1800
Mitsui	997	989	992	992
Mitsui Fudosn	1370	1350	1370	1350
Mitsui Trust	1250	1220	1240	1220
Murata Mfg	3960	3900	3960	3890
NEC	1320	1300	1310	1320
New Oji Paper	959	949	952	955
Nikko Sec	1330	1320	1320	1310
Nintendo	7600	7500	7600	7400
Nipp Credit Bk	419	410	415	418
Nipp Express	1090	1060	1080	1070
Nippon Oil	741	732	735	739
Nippon Paper	747	741	744	738
Nippon Steel	380	376	379	378
Nippon Yusen	651	642	645	648
Nippondenso	2250	2200	2240	2210
Nissan Motor	874	870	870	872
NKK	333	329	329	332
Nomura Sec	2340	2320	2320	2300
NTT	8160a	8070a	8080a	8060a
Obayashi	992	981	986	975
Odakyu El Ry	750	742	748	750
Ono Pharm	3820	3750	3820	3750
Osaka Gas	398	395	398	397
Ricoh	1210	1200	1200	1200
Sakura Bk	1220	1200	1220	1200
Sankyo	2540	2490	2510	2480
Sanwa Bank	2160	2120	2160	2110
Sanyo Elec	672	658	663	669
Secom	7140	7090	7130	7070
Seibu Rwy	6330	6250	6300	6430
Sekisui House	1300	1280	1290	1300
Seven-Eleven	7370	7230	7330	7350
Sharp	1820	1790	1790	1810
Shimizu	1220	1200	1200	1210
Shin-etsu Ch	2250	2230	2240	2230
Shizuoka Bk	1400	1350	1400	1340
Sony	6850	6780	6820	6850
Sumitomo	1230	1220	1220	1230
Sumitomo Bk	2230	2210	2220	2210
Sumit Chem	557	548	554	554
Sumitomo Elec	1490	1470	1480	1480
Sumit Metal	339	336	339	339
Sumit Trust	1530	1480	1520	1480
Taisei	813	803	808	795
Taisho Pharm	2200	2180	2200	2170
Takeda Chem	1800	1750	1790	1750
TDK	6080	5950	6080	5940
Tohoku El Pwr	2570	2550	2570	2550
Tokai Bank	1340	1320	1330	1310
Tokio Marine	1450	1430	1440	1420
Tokyo El Pwr	2850	2830	2840	2840
Tokyo Gas	390	386	387	385
Tokyu	854	843	844	855
Tonen	1620	1600	1610	1600
Toppan Print	1620	1600	1610	1590
Toray Ind	734	705	706	725
Toshiba	827	822	826	827
Toyo Seikan	3860	3800	3820	3860
Toyo Trust	1080	1040	1080	1030
Toyota Motor	2400	2380	2380	2380
Yamaichi Sec	824	805	813	819
Yamanouchi	2440	2410	2420	2450
Yasuda Fire	828	819	823	825
Yasuda Trust	707	686	706	678

a: x 100

Nikkei 225 index: 22119.99
Previous: 22123.89

Toronto

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Price	20.95	20.60	20.80	20.85
Air Canada	5½	5.25	5.40	5.40
Alberta Energy	26.70	26.55	26.65	26.60
Alcan Alum	44	43.65	43.90	43.85
Avenor A	22.70	22½	22.65	22.60
Bk Nova Scotia	30.85	30.65	30.80	30.90
Barrick Gold	41.10	40.40	41.10	40.40
BCE	53.30	52	52.95	51.95
BC Telecomm	25.60	25.30	25½	25.30
Bombardier B	19¾	19.55	19.70	19.55
Brascan A	27.35	27.15	27.30	27.20
Cameco	73	72½	72.90	72½
CIBC	41¾	41½	41¾	41.65
Cdn Airlines	3.40	3.35	3.40	3.40
Cdn Nat Res	22.85	22.60	22¾	22½
Cdn Occid Pet	49.55	49.40	49.55	49.35
Cdn Pacific	26.80	26.40	26.55	26.85
Cominco	33.15	32.95	33.15	32.80
Consumers Gas	20½	20.40	20.40	20½
Dofasco	21¾	21.65	21.70	21¾
Doman Ind B	10	9¾	10	9¾
Du Pont Cda A	33¼	31.90	32.85	31.80
Echo Bay Min	18	17.60	18	17.60
Empire Co. A	12½	12¼	12¾	12
Falconbridge	31.45	31.15	31.45	31.20
Fletcher Chall A	19½	19.20	19.35	19
Franco Nevada	78½	77	77	78
Guardian Cap A	9	9	9	9
Hemlo Gold	17.85	17.60	17.60	17¾
Horsham	19.40	19.30	19.30	19.30
Imperial Oil	55.40	54.70	54.85	55¼
Inco	45.70	44	45.40	44½
IPL Energy	33	32.90	32.95	32.95
Laidlaw A	14.35	14.10	14.30	14.15
Laidlaw B	14.45	14.05	14.20	14¼
Loewen Group	41.45	40½	41.45	40.55
Ldn Insur Gp	28	27¾	27¾	28
Macmill Bloel	18.10	17.80	17.95	17.95
Magna Intl A	65	64½	64¾	64½
Maple Leaf Fds	7.05	7	7	6.90
Moore	25.85	25.70	25.80	25¾
Newbridge Net	90½	85½	89.80	85.80
Noranda Inc	31.10	30¾	31	30¾
Noranda Forest	9½	9¼	9.45	9.30
Norcen Energy	21.95	21¼	21.90	21.85
Nthern Telecom	71.55	70	70¾	70.70
Nova	13.15	13.05	13.10	13.15
Onex	14.15	14	14.15	14.10
Placer Dome	38¼	37.65	38¼	37.70
Potash Sask	87.15	86.20	86.20	86¼
Provigo	8.55	8.45	8.45	8.55
Quebecor Print	23¾	23½	23½	23¾
Renaissance	36	35.60	35.80	35.80
Rio Algom	27.45	27¼	27.35	27.55
Seagram Co	46.45	45	45.90	44½
Stone Consold	17.85	17.60	17.70	17¾
Talisman Eny	32.15	31.80	32	32.20
Teleglobe	20.20	20.05	20.10	20.20
Telus	16.65	16.55	16.65	16.60
Thomson	22½	22.30	22.30	22½
TorDom Bank	23¾	23.60	23¾	23.80
Transalta	14½	14.35	14.40	14½
TransCda Pipe	19.20	19.05	19.10	19.15
Utd Dominion	32.95	32.90	32.95	32.95
Westburn	9.85	9½	9.85	9.40
Westcoast Eny	20½	20.30	20.45	20.35
Weston	49.20	48¾	49	49¼

TSE Industrials index: 5116.94
Previous: 5095.50

Vienna

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aust Airlines	1845	1845	1845	n.a.
Brau-Un Goess	656	651	656	656
Bund Vers Pfd	402	402	402	n.a.
Creditanst PC	1511	1511	1490	1490
EA-Generali	3530	3495	3530	3525
EVN	1530	1524	1530	1521
Interunfall	1558	1558	1558	n.a.
Lenzing	730	725	730	723
Leykam	371	364	370	363
Mayr-Melnhof	501	499	501	501
OEMV	1040	1033	1040	1038
Oest Brau-Bet	548	544	547	548
Oest Elektriz	752	748	750	754
VA Tech	1418	1400	1418	1400
Wienerberger	2140	2125	2140	2125

ATX index: 1115.06
Previous: 1114.99

Wellington

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zeald B	3.80	3.76	3.80	3.79
Brierly Invt	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
Carter Holt ord	3.37	3.31	3.36	3.34
Fernz	4.55	4.50	4.54	4.55
Fisher Paykel	4.86	4.83	4.86	4.78
FC Forest	1.91	1.85	1.90	1.91
Goodman Fder	1.46	1.45	1.45	1.46
Indep News	5.40	5.32	5.32	5.40
Lion Nathan	3.54	3.52	3.54	3.54
Nat Gas note	2.11	2.10	2.11	2.11
NZ Refining	25.50	25.10	25.50	25.50
Telecom NZ	6.16	6.10	6.13	6.18
Trust Bk NZ	2.95	2.93	2.95	2.96
Wilson Horton	9.68	9.61	9.65	9.60

NZSE-40 index: 2135.06
Previous: 2142.30

Zurich

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adia B	272	263	265	273
Alusuisse R	1000	986	994	995
Ares-Serono B	880	878	878	880
Baer Hdg B	1325	1320	1320	1330
Baloise Hdg R	2700	2630	2680	2695
BBC B	1497	1485	1488	1489
Bk Vision	1525	1505	1515	1530
Bobst B	1955	1945	1950	1950
Ciba Geigy R	1471	1457	1462	1471
CS Holdings R	111.75	110	110	111.50
Elektrowatt B	509	490	491	505
Fischer B	1475	1460	1465	1465
Hilti PC	945	931	945	930
Holderbank B	941	935	940	942
Merkur Hdg R	259	254	257	257
Nestle R	1380	1375	1376	1379
Oerlikon R	136	132	136	131.50
Pargesa Hld B	1451	1448	1450	1445
PharmVisn B	6240	6160	6220	6180
Pirelli B	160	158	158	157
Roche Hdg PC	9940	9790	9790	9920
Sandoz R	1382	1370	1372	1382
SBC B	461	455	455	458
Schindler B	1370	1340	1360	1350
SGS B	2860	2780	2860	2770
SMH B	776	737	773	737
Sulzer R	826	813	827	800
Swiss Reins R	1339	1310	1310	1334
Swissair R	1255	1230	1245	1250
UBS B	1241	1224	1226	1239
Winterthur B	785	768	785	789
Zurich Assur R	341	337	338	342

SPI index: 2339.94
Previous: 2350.65

NYSE

Tuesday's 4 p.m. Close

Nationwide prices, not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

Continued on Page 18

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EU Says Indonesia Violated WTO Rules With Carmaker Deal

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JAKARTA — An Indonesian policy that grants preferential tax and tariff treatment to a car company owned by a son of President Suharto violates a World Trade Organization agreement, Sir Leon Brittan, the European Union trade commissioner, said Tuesday.

Sir Leon said he had told Mr. Suharto that "we want the policy to be reviewed."

"I made it clear that in our view, this was a policy that was discriminatory against European car manufacturers and also that it was contrary to the obligations Indonesia had undertaken with the World Trade Organization," Sir Leon said.

Indonesia said Feb. 28 it was scrapping import duties on components and a luxury sales tax for local carmakers who could meet the country's requirements for local content and certain other requirements. The only company that met the requirements was PT Timor Putra Nasional, a venture between Hutomo Mandala Putra, Mr. Suharto's son, and Kia Motors Corp., a South Korean carmaker.

PT Astra International, Indonesia's largest car company, has said it expects the number of cars sold in Indonesia to fall 23 percent this year as consumers wait for Putra to go into production. Because of the preferential treatment, Putra Timor's cars will be cheaper than any model currently on the market.

Sir Leon said he did not yet know what steps the EU might take if Indonesia did not change its rules.

Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry also has expressed concern about the rules.

Sir Leon said Indonesia's trade minister, Tunky Ariwibowo, had told him Indonesia was hoping to find a "solution" to the dispute in its pending discussions with Japan.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Kevin Murphy of the International Herald Tribune reported from Hong Kong:

Despite Sir Leon's criticism of Indonesia's auto policy, PT Bimantara Citra, a conglomerate headed by another of Mr. Suharto's sons, Bambang Trihatmodjo, said Tuesday that it expected to launch its own "national car" by July 1.

In a meeting with investors in Hong Kong, Bimantara executives also said they expected their company's car manufacturing business to qualify for concessions similar to those granted to PT Putra Timor Nasional. Bimantara Citra is working with another South Korean automaker, Hyundai Motor Co., to build its new cars in line with guidelines set by the Indonesian government.

Those requirements include total local ownership of the Indonesian operation, a national brand name, high local content and export plans.

"We are confident we will get the same tax status as well," said Jongkie Sugiarto, president director of PT Bimantara Cakra Nusa, the group's automotive division. "We fulfill all the requirements set by the government."

Japan Posts Stronger Data

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Japan's economy is continuing to improve, data released Tuesday showed, but policymakers are still not fully convinced the economy is firmly back on its feet.

Japan's leading diffusion index, meant to suggest economic conditions three to six months ahead, remained above the "boom-or-bust" line of 50 in February for the fifth consecutive month.

On a scale of 100, the index rose to 80 from 72.7 in January, the Economic Planning Agency said.

But the head of the Economic Planning Agency said he remained cautious about the momentum of the recovery.

"I am not yet optimistic about whether Japan will achieve a self-sustained economic recovery," Shusei Tanaka said.

The diffusion index is compiled from a host of indicators such as job figures and money supply.

The Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan have said the recovery is still driven by public works financed by the government, rather than private-sector demand.

But analysts and investors were more upbeat.

"From consumption to capital investment, there are aren't any signs the recovery is getting off track," said Yasuhiko Ushikubo, an economist at the Industrial Bank of Japan.

Japan's coincident diffusion index, which suggests the current economic state, was a perfect 100 in February for the second month.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Korea Gets Into Hot Water

Shipbuilders Say Seoul Worsens Industry Glut

By Kevin Murphy
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — Young Soo Song came to thank Hong Kong shipowners for buying South Korean ships and maybe solicit a few new contracts for already swollen order books.

But before the executive — who is chairman of the Korea Shipbuilders' Association chairman and president of Hanjin Heavy Industries Co. — left the Hong Kong Shipowners Association's monthly lunch, his industry was being chided for not taking enough ships apart. Nothing frightens fleet owners more than the idea of too many ships plying the seas and sinking their chances for profit, especially with both the shipbuilding and shipbreaking, or salvage, industries in flux.

"Shipowners and shipbuilders are like brothers and sisters: When the business is booming, we enjoy it together," said George Chao, head of Wah Kwong Shipping Holdings Ltd. and chairman of the Hong Kong shippers' group. "When it's bad, we cry on each other's shoulders."

"We need new buildings, of course, but we need to scrap the older ships," Mr. Chao said. "Korean shipyards have expanded so much in recent years, but they have not done enough to help scrap ships." South Korea, which holds 30 percent of the world market for new vessels but has negligible interests in ship-breaking, is coming under greater pressure to help maintain order in the market from buyers and other builders.

Unfortunately, analysts say, while the two industries are related, they are not always linked. Because it is easier and cheaper to dismantle old ships than build new ones, few countries can be competitive at both at the same time.

"These days, scrapping is a business for other countries like China or India, not Korea," said Henry Kim, a general manager of Daewoo Hong Kong Ltd., part of one of South Korea's shipbuilding giants.

Success in ship-breaking depends heavily on rock-bottom rates for relatively unskilled labor and a strong demand for scrap steel — or the occasional subsidy. As one analyst said, "It's a filthy, dangerous business no country wants to stay in if they can help it."

Three years ago, China dominated the world market as Taiwan-based salvage operations shifted their business to mainland China and a speculative construction boom awakened a fierce appetite for scrap steel to be melted down for building supplies.

But Beijing's moves in 1993 to cool an overheated economy, along with its new taxes on steel imported in the form of old ships, have given India, Pakistan and Bangladesh the lead in the world ship-breaking business.

But as South Korea wrests market share for new ships away from Japan with prices few analysts say can be truly profitable, the competition is putting more ships into the water worldwide.

At the same time, South Korean shipyards planning to expand by nearly 40 percent next year face higher wage costs at home and stiffer competition from China.

Given such pressures, offering incentives to their customers to scrap ships is not a priority, even though South Korea was a major player in the scrapping industry as recently as 12 years ago.

"Chinese prices are lower than ours," Mr. Young said. "They cannot build the more sophisticated ships now, but one day in the future they will take over the industry."

Such a scenario suggests trouble for owners who suffer when oversupply forces shipping rates down. But one broker said the blame for overcapacity should not be placed entirely on shipbuilders.

"Owners can complain about there not being enough ships scrapped," a Hong Kong-based broker said.

"But no one ever wants to be the first to scrap a ship if they think they can get one more year of decent rates out of it. If too many older ships are still around, blame the owners."

Sharp and Intel Shrink Flash Chip

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Sharp Corp. and Intel Corp. have developed technology to make flash-memory computer chips that are smaller and use less power than existing ones, the companies said Tuesday.

Sharp and Intel, which have been jointly developing flash-memory chips for four years, said no new investment was involved and that they would sell the chips under their own brands.

The new technology will allow eight-megabit memory chips to be 44 percent smaller than chips now being produced, meaning it will be possible to produce more chips from one silicon wafer.

Sharp said it would start sample shipments of eight-megabit chips made with the technology in late May, at a price of 4,000 yen ($37.26). It plans to produce the chips at a rate of 2 million a month at its plant in Hiroshima prefecture.

Intel will start sample shipments of the new chips Wednesday and will start mass production in September at its plant in New Mexico.

Flash memory is a type of semiconductor used to store data in electronic devices. Unlike other memory chips, these do not lose their stored data when the appliance is disconnected from a power supply.

The new chips will be "essential for next-generation portable phones, multimedia devices, digital cameras and other electronic products," Atsushi Asada, vice president of Sharp, said.

The two companies said they would move on to producing 16-megabit chips later.

The flash-memory chip market was worth about $1.3 billion in 1995 and will probably be worth about $6 billion by 2000, according to the research company Dataquest Inc.

Intel and Sharp together hold nearly 45 percent of the worldwide flash-memory market, which was worth 190 billion yen in 1995, industry data show.

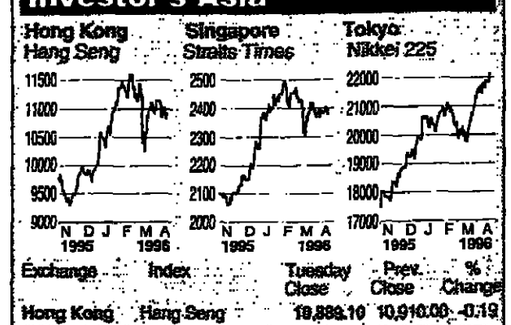
Also on Tuesday, NEC Corp. said it had started shipping samples of an advanced memory chip that would power electronic devices about two years from now.

The 256-megabit dynamic random-access memory chip, used to store data in electronic appliances, is four times as powerful as the most advanced chip now on the market. The thumbnail-size chip can store the equivalent of about 2,000 pages of standard newspaper text.

NEC said it was the first chipmaker to release samples of the 256-megabit D-RAM chip.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Tuesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	10,889.10	10,910.00	-0.19
Singapore	Straits Times	2,378.73	2,378.96	-0.01
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,300.10	2,267.40	+1.44
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	22,119.88	22,123.89	-0.02
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,175.88	1,174.23	+0.03
Bangkok	SET	1,296.44	1,295.22	+0.09
Seoul	Composite Index	940.55	950.61	-1.06
Taipei	Stock Market Index	6,907.01	6,052.85	-2.41
Manila	PSE	2,996.60	2,973.87	+0.76
Jakarta	Composite Index	627.83	628.39	-0.09
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,135.06	2,142.30	-0.34
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,728.76	3,710.79	+0.48

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• **Dai Xianglong,** China's central bank governor, said he planned to set up a separate, parallel banking system specifically to help handle losses at state enterprises.

• **Qingling Motors Co.**'s net profit fell to 177.62 million yuan ($21.3 million) last year from 521.9 million yuan in 1994 as government measures to slow the economy depressed vehicle prices and the rising yen raised costs of imported parts.

• **China Power International Holding Ltd.** of Hong Kong, **AES China Holding Co.** of the United States and two Chinese companies, **Anhui Liyuan Electric Power Development Co.** and **Wuhu Energy Development Co.**, secured $65 million in bank loans to fund a power plant expansion in China, the first use of commercial financing in the sector.

• ***Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.***'s net profit climbed to 5.53 billion Taiwan dollars ($205.6 million) in the first quarter from 2.75 billion dollars a year earlier as sales rose 72 percent, to 10.3 billion dollars.

• **Taiwan**'s unemployment rate climbed to a nine-year high of 2.2 percent in March from 2.1 percent in February and 1.5 percent in March 1995.

• **Watta Holding Bhd.**, which makes batteries for such automakers as Mercedes-Benz AG and Toyota Motor Corp., saw its shares soar to close at 9.30 ringgit ($3.73) in their debut on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange, compared with an initial offering price of 3 ringgit.

• **Petroliam Nasional Bhd.**, Malaysia's state oil company, will sell $1.4 billion of liquefied natural gas to Shizuoka Gas Co. of Japan, or 425,000 tons of gas a year for 20 years.

• **Honda Cars (Thailand) Co.** hopes to raise its Thai car sales to 60,000 in 1997 from a projected 45,000 this year.

• **Post Publishing PLC** plans to raise its registered capital to 505 million Thai baht ($20 million) by issuing 40.5 million new shares. Most will be offered to existing shareholders through a 1-for-4 rights issue.

• ***Singapore Airlines Ltd.*** sold three Boeing 747-200 jetliners to two U.S. carriers and one Boeing 737 cargo plane in Europe. It did not identify the airlines or disclose the price.

• **Fujitsu Ltd.** on Thursday will launch an automatic English-Japanese translation service on the Internet available to users anywhere in the world. *Knight-Ridder, Bloomberg, AP, Reuters*

BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL (IN LIQUIDATION)

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF FORMER EMPLOYEES, THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS AND DEPENDANTS

To all individuals who may be or may become interested as beneficiaries in any assets subject to the trusts of the ICIC Staff Benefit Trust and/or the BCCI Staff Benefit Trust ("the Trusts"). Such individuals ("the scheme members") comprise principally any past or present directors, officers and employees of BCCI Holdings (Luxembourg) SA and of any of its subsidiary or associated or affiliated companies (including Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A. and Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Limited) and the dependants and family members of such individuals.

Hearings will be held (1) in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands commencing on 27 May 1996; and (2) in the High Court in London commencing on 4 June 1996 at which orders will be sought binding all scheme members to a settlement of litigation in the Cayman Islands and England and of other matters relating to the Trusts.

The main issues in the litigation, to which some of the scheme members are parties, concern the validity of the Trusts and alleged breaches of trust by the principal BCCI and ICIC Companies in particular in relation to a subvention payment of US$150 million made in 1986. The proposed settlement is conditional on the Courts making Orders binding all scheme members to its terms whether or not they are parties to the litigation. Certain scheme members have been appointed by the Courts to represent the interests of all scheme members who are not themselves parties to the litigation.

As part of the proposed settlement, an appeal in the Luxembourg Courts brought by former BCCI employees, including members of the BCCI Campaign Committee, challenging the proposed agreement between the BCCI Liquidators and the Abu Dhabi Government has been withdrawn.

The principal terms of the proposed settlement are:

1. The release of all claims (including counterclaims) by the scheme members which they have or may have in connection with or arising out of the Trusts and discontinuance of the litigation.
2. The payment of US$50 million to a new Trust to be held by independent trustees (whose appointment is to be approved by the Courts) on behalf of the scheme members in accordance with the terms of a Trust Deed to be approved by the Courts.
3. A third party has agreed to pay US$20 million to an entirely new Trust to be held by an independent trustee (whose appointment is to be approved by the Courts) for the purposes of assisting in the repayment or settlement of staff loans to employees or former employees.
4. No person will be entitled to receive sums under the new Trusts (1) unless they release all other claims they may have against the principal BCCI and ICIC Companies other than claims as genuine commercial depositors or creditors and (2) to the extent that they are determined to have been guilty of any fraudulent or criminal act or omission in relation to the principal BCCI or ICIC Companies.

Certain outstanding issues relating to the settlement will also be dealt with at the Court hearings. Each scheme member has a right to apply to appear at the Court hearings. Any scheme member who requires further information or intends to appear at such hearings should contact (i) Manches & Co at Aldwych House, 81 Aldwych, London WC2B 4RP or Hallewell Bunyard at 6, Highbury Corner, London N5 1RD (solicitors for the Plaintiffs in the English litigation) or (ii) the Liquidators at BCCI SA (in liquidation), Citadel House, 5-11 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1BR or (iii) Finers at 179 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6LS.

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NASDAQ

Tuesday's 4 p.m.

The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.

The Associated Press.

NYSE

Tuesday's 4 p.m. Close

(Continued)

TRADING NATIONS

THE ASIAN ENGINE PART III

In this installment of "Trading Nations: The Asian Engine," we examine government policies and commercial trends affecting trade in the Asia-Pacific region, including the evolving role of the Association of South East Asian Nations, the Osaka Action Agenda adopted by 18 nations and the pressing problem of current-account deficits. We also assess the Japanese outlook.

AFP

An informal meeting of delegates from 18 nations in Osaka, Japan ended with the adoption of the Osaka Action Agenda, which spells out liberalization plans.

ASEAN EXPANDS: HOW FAR?

New members are expected to welcome diversity, and some fresh challenges.

It is no longer a case of if but rather when the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will increase it membership from seven to 10 nations. Odds are that the expansion will occur before 2000.

The trade and cultural organization – originally founded as an anti-communist bloc during the Vietnam War – currently embraces Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, along with Vietnam, which joined last year. The total population of the group is more than 400 million.

Many observers predict that three additional countries – Cambodia, Laos and Burma (Myanmar) – will be added soon. Cambodia and Laos are expected to join by the end of next year, while Burma's admission will probably be achieved by the year 2000. That would bring the population to more than 500 million, twice as many consumers as in the United States and more than in Western Europe.

Some members are concerned that accepting them into the fold so early could be detrimental to the group. Among the problems that could arise from expanding membership are further complications in decision making and a slowing of established free-trade objectives.

To be sure, the Indochinese countries and Burma differ from the original members in many ways. Vietnam and Laos are led by conservative communist governments. Repeated charges of repression and human rights violations have been leveled against the Burmese and Vietnamese regimes. Cambodia is still feeling the effects of years of civil war and foreign occupation. And the disparity of per capita GDP between old and new members is extremely large.

Fresh perspectives

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, leader of oil-rich Brunei, thinks that more members mean more challenges. "New members will increase our political, economic and cultural diversity," he says. Other leaders are also enthusiastic about expansion. President Suharto of Indonesia recently said that the association will "benefit from the fresh insights and perspectives" that new members are expected to bring.

But some are not so sure, especially when it comes to Burma. At a recent press conference in Washington, Rep. Doug Bereuter, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Asia-Pacific Affairs, cautioned ASEAN members about embracing Burma. Opposition leader and

Continued on page 21

A BLUEPRINT FOR ASIA-PACIFIC FREE TRADE

Eighteen nations cobble together an agenda, with compromises, to ensure that their interests are represented.

Last November, after months of dickering and bickering, delegates from 18 nations adopted the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA), an ambitious blueprint for long-term trade and investment liberalization in the Asia-Pacific region.

Discussions continue on various aspects of implementation, details that will ideally be worked out before the next Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum this November. But most of those involved in the Osaka discussions agree that unprecedented progress toward free trade was achieved. One of the major aims of this year's summit is a green light for total implementation of the action agenda on January 1, 1997.

The OAA program is based on nine basic principles:

- Comprehensiveness (no exclusions).
- Consistency with the goals of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Transparency of all laws, regulations and administrative procedures related to trade.
- Comparability of actions.
- Non-discrimination.
- No further increases in protection measures.
- Simultaneous start of the "liberalization journey."
- Economic and technical cooperation.
- Flexibility based on the different levels of development among member states.

Choppy waters

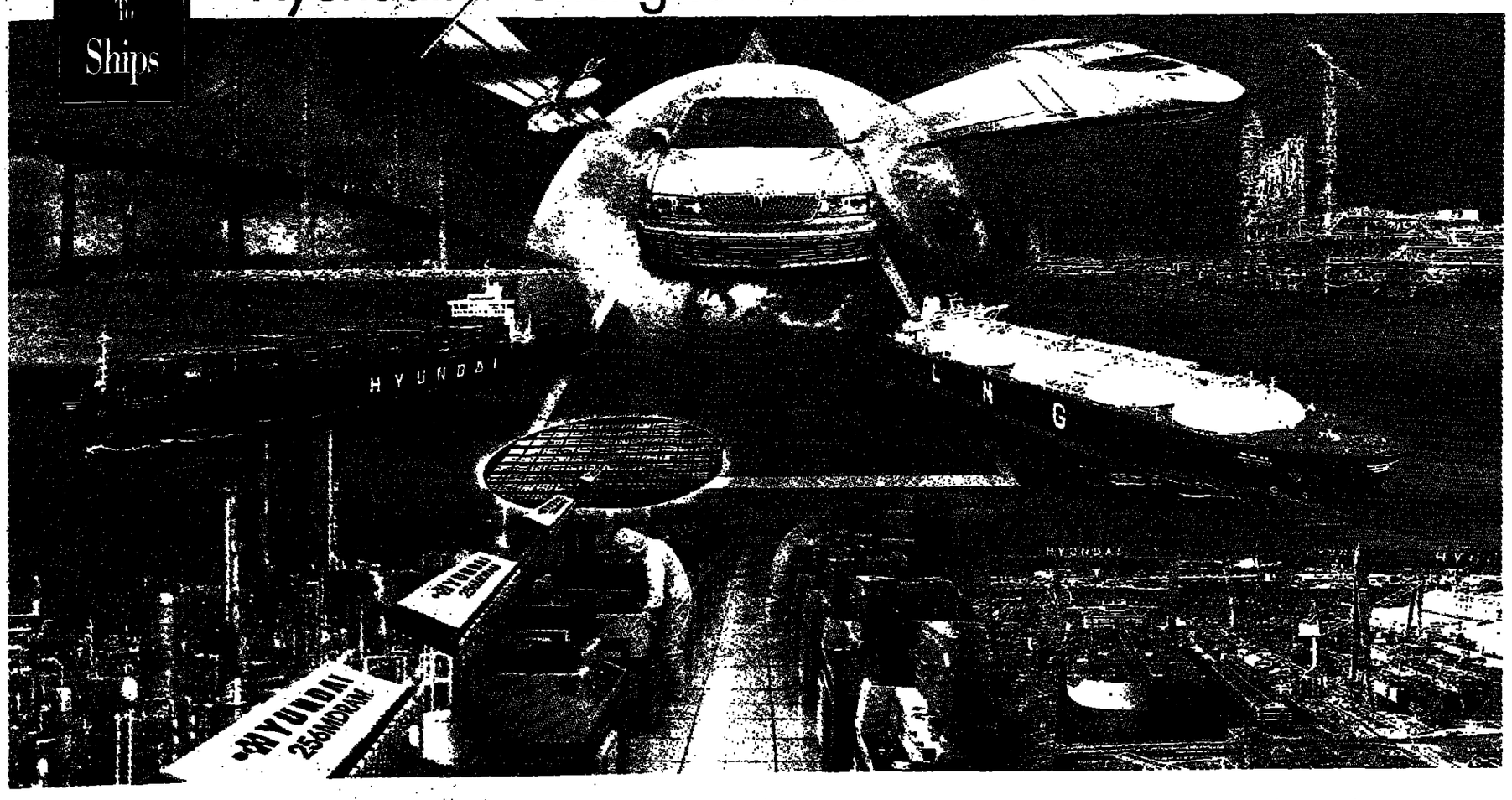
Adoption of the Osaka Action Agenda was not smooth sailing, and some rather vague compromises were forged in order to reach final agreement. The "flexibility" clause, for example, was a compromise worked out between nations pushing for more agricultural exports (Australia and the United States) and those trying to limit food imports in order to protect their farming sectors (China, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan).

Initially, Japan proposed a clause that involved special consideration for "sensitive sectors" like farming (primarily to placate the powerful Japanese rice farming lobby). This was met with outcries from the Australian and American delegations. Finally, the clause was agreed upon with allowance for delays in liberalizing certain sectors (including agriculture) as long as the predetermined free-trade target dates of 2010 for industrialized countries and 2020 for developing countries are met.

Continued on page 20

From Chips To Ships

Hyundai. Working Towards A Better Tomorrow.



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IN A WORD

Singapore's Outlook on the WTO

An interview with Yeo Cheow Tong, Singapore's minister for trade and industry

What role does Singapore see itself playing within the World Trade Organization?

Singapore tries to play an active and constructive role in the WTO. It seeks to strengthen the WTO and the multilateral free-trade regime that the WTO promotes. We would like to see the WTO developing into an effective organization overseeing the efficient functioning of the multilateral trading system.

As we all know, Singapore is a small economy with no natural resources. We have managed to prosper largely as a result of our free-trade regime. The WTO (with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) is the cornerstone of Singapore's trade policy. Singapore is one of the most open trading regimes in the world, with 96 percent of all imports entering Singapore duty-free. An efficient and effective rule-based international trading system, which is open and predictable, is crucial for Singapore's continued economic growth.

We would like to share our experience with the other WTO members and encourage them to similarly open up their economies. We believe that in this way, they can only benefit themselves in the long run.

What are the major benefits to Singapore of being part of the WTO? What does Singapore see as the major challenges of this membership?

First and foremost, joining the WTO has enabled our exporters to secure market access through the removal of quotas and tariff reductions. For instance, full implementation of the Uruguay Round [of GATT] tariff reductions by Singapore's top five export markets is estimated to result in tariff savings of over $300 million a year. Secondly, the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) under the WTO provides a more disciplined system to resolve trade disputes. This is particularly important for small countries like Singapore. I believe that the immediate challenge any new WTO member would face is conforming to a set of multilateral rules. It would have to adjust its laws and regulations to make them consistent with WTO rules and the obligations under the Uruguay Round Agreements.

The long-term challenge, however, is to make structural changes to the economy so as to respond to the intensified global competition. As with all WTO members, Singapore would have to make the necessary adjustments to comply with our obligations in the WTO. However, since Singapore is one of the most open economies in the world, this does not pose significant difficulties. Our businessmen have little domestic protection and have always had to compete openly in the international market. Our challenge is to continue improving our business capabilities and competitiveness.

Do you think the WTO agenda is compatible with what AFTA wants to accomplish by 2003?

My answer is a definite "yes." Both the WTO and the Association of South East Asian Nations are committed to trade liberalization. Within ASEAN, we are committed to removing tariffs to between zero and five percent by 2003. We hope to set an example for other WTO members to follow. In this way, the ASEAN Free Trade Area can serve as a building block for what could potentially be achieved at the multilateral level.

What do you think are Singapore's most appealing incentives for attracting investment and operational headquarters to the city state?

One key factor is our excellent business infrastructure. Singapore has an efficient transportation and telecommunications network. Our air and sea ports offer efficient access to regional and international destinations. We maintain a very pro-business environment, competitive tax structure and transparent laws and regulations. Singapore enjoys political and social stability and offers a high quality of life for expatriates. Our multilingual, skilled work force is disciplined and has been able to add substantial value to the operations of foreign investors.

These fundamentals have enabled companies to set up manufacturing plants and OHQs easily and profitably. While labor and land costs in Singapore are no longer cheap, these attributes have allowed us to maintain our overall business competitiveness for capital, knowledge and technology-intensive investments.

Interview by J.R.Y.

ICC DELIVERS MESSAGE TO THE WTO

With the Uruguay Round of GATT as the starting point, some recommendations are outlined.

As the World Trade Organization (WTO) prepares for its first ministerial conference this December, the fledgling body is seeking advice from many quarters, wisdom that will help it shape its agenda for liberalizing trade well into the next century.

Some of the most important advice is coming from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), which links thousands of companies and business associations around the globe that are dedicated to a strong and open multilateral trading system covering goods, services and intellectual property. The ICC's Commission on International Trade and Investment Policy has outlined a set of recommendations that it is presenting to the WTO and its member governments ahead of the December conference.

The ICC recommendations were released at the World Trade Congress convened by the International Herald Tribune and the Singapore Trade Development Board in Singapore today. Senior executives of major companies from all over the world serve on the commission that compiled the report. These include IBM, Exxon, Bata, Nestlé, Volvo, Shell, Usinor-Sacilor, BASF, Commerzbank, National Westminster Bank, Kajima Corp., Tube Investments of India and Koç Holding AS of Turkey.

"The ICC believes that a major business input is vital to enhance the value and relevance of [the WTO] preparatory process," says Arthur Dunkel, chairman of the Commission on International Trade and Investment Policy. "While the agreements under the WTO are between governments, the users are the trading community." Before joining the private sector, Mr. Dunkel was director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) during most of the Uruguay Round of trade liberalization negotiations, which culminated in the creation of the WTO at the beginning of 1995.

Products en route to the Medan international harbor for export.

Three goals

Mr. Dunkel and his associates have mapped out three "overarching priorities" for the WTO, pivotal points that the ICC believes should form the core of discussion and decision at the ministerial conference.

The first priority is to ensure that agreements concluded during the Uruguay Round negotiations are implemented in full and on schedule. The second is to complete further business mandated by the Uruguay Round. The third is to instigate an additional work program on issues that have taken on growing importance since the Uruguay Round in order to ensure that the WTO stays up to date on evolving commercial requirements and technological advances.

"The ICC attaches foremost importance to the implementation – in full and on schedule – of the agreed results of the Uruguay Round negotiations," says Mr. Dunkel. "And, not least, the agreed reductions in tariffs. It must be an essential task of the Singapore ministerial meeting to take stock of progress . . . and take steps to remedy any delays. It should go without saying that there should be particularly firm action against any signs of backward movements."

Dispute resolution

A major ICC concern is dispute settlement: an appeal to WTO member governments to refrain from unilateral action against trading partners and instead to use the stronger dispute settlement mechanism established for the WTO. The ICC is also strongly interested in expansion of the organization beyond its present membership of 119 countries, but only if new members are committed to the market-economy-based principles that drive the WTO's objectives and the contractual nature of the WTO.

"All prospective members – whatever their size and importance – must first demonstrate concrete commitments to those principles and rules," says Mr. Dunkel, alluding to the problems that have arisen over the inclusion of Russia and China.

Multilateralism

Negotiations on several subjects that formed part of the Uruguay Round were not finished when the meetings ended, and the ICC statement urges the WTO to pursue them according to agreed deadlines. They include negotiations to liberalize trade in financial services (banking, insurance and securities); basic telecommunications; maritime transport; professional services; government procurement of services; and movement of professional, technical and managerial personnel across national boundaries.

Another controversial point that the WTO must still address is rules of origin.

"Rules used by different countries to determine the origin of goods for trade policy purposes are unnecessarily diverse, complex and opaque, and are applied with considerable inconsistency," says Mr. Dunkel. "They are thus burdensome and costly to business, and distort international trade."

Meanwhile, the ICC statement suggests that the WTO pursue new business on a number of different fronts. One of the most essential is improvement of existing WTO agreements – enhancing disciplines on subsidies (especially in relation to state-owned enterprises), extending the coverage of government procurement rules (to far more WTO members) and marking further progress on intellectual property rights.

One action of paramount importance for the ICC is further reduction of classic tariff barriers. Other requirements are the modernization and simplification of customs procedures, the establishment of a global framework of rules and regulations governing cross-border direct investment, and increased efforts to curb extortion and bribery in international business.

Regional trade blocs

The ICC also comments on regional trade blocs. "The Singapore meeting should also be an occasion for underlining the primacy of the global multilateral trading system and of the WTO as its guardian," says Mr. Dunkel. "Regional trade organizations can make a valuable contribution to pointing the way for further global trade liberalization. But they also carry the risk of diverting attention from the task."

For a free copy of "The ICC Statement on the Present and Future Agenda of the WTO in Preparation for the First WTO Ministerial Conference," please fax your request to the ICC at (33 1) 49 53 29 24.

J.R.Y.

BLUEPRINT FOR FREE TRADE

Continued from page 19

The right to equality in trade privileges was another hot topic, largely due to Washington's refusal to grant automatic most-favored-nation status to China. This potentially explosive issue was settled with a compromise that requires members only to "endeavor to apply" equality principles.

Same pace?

Comparability of actions was another thorny issue. Some delegates thought their countries should have the freedom to open up their economies at their own pace, while others were predisposed to a GATT-like negotiating mechanism to ensure equal member input. Ultimately, an "endeavor to comply" compromise was put into play.

Despite these open-ended principles, the individual market-liberalization plans now being formulated are fairly action-oriented, stating the target dates, tariff-cut rates and trade facilitation measures in 15 specific areas. This is in addition to the initial "inspirational actions" (including tariff cuts and deregulation measures) tabled before the Osaka meeting to jump-start the plan.

Offers made

China offered to slash tariffs by no less than 30 percent on 4,000 products and eliminate some import controls this year. Japan offered tariff cuts on 697 products and promised deregulatory measures worth an estimated $10 billion.

Singapore pledged to step up tariff cuts and further deregulation of the telecommunications, power and gas sectors. Indonesia promised to press ahead with tariff reductions by up to 10 percent on some products.

Action plans

Meanwhile, APEC members are getting down to determining the nitty-gritty of their individual action plans – with a little help from their friends. At a meeting in Manila last month, Hong Kong and Singapore shared their draft action plans with 400 senior APEC officials in attendance, providing an example of how nations can comply with the principles agreed upon at Osaka.

At that same meeting, the Philippines government presented a "matrix" for the creation of individual action plans, as well as examples of several collective action plans that included specialized software to be developed in Manila.

A spur

Three similar meetings are scheduled before the APEC summit in order to gauge progress and prod laggards.

APEC officials are eager for countries to share their plans, even in rough form. It is expected that developed countries – which have to reach free-trade goals 10 years ahead of developing countries – will lead the way. There is some concern, however, that the impending presidential election will delay development of the U.S. action plan.

J.R.Y.

One of the world's largest trading nations is one of Asia's smallest nations.

Despite its size, Singapore continues to prove its prowess in the economic world. Rapid growth in external trade has turned Singapore into one of the world's largest trading nations. And, Fortune Magazine rated Singapore as the number one city in the world for business.

Thanks to its infrastructural strengths (world's best airport and seaport and an advanced telecommunications network), Singapore is able to provide global trade connections efficiently, thus reducing business costs and headaches. Free-trade policies providing an open trade regime enable international companies to do business with Singapore and to use Singapore as a base for regional expansion. And of course, key geographic positioning and strategic alliances with fast growing economies in Asia allow Singapore to hold its position as a premier international trading hub.

For a closer look at Singapore and opportunities in Asia, call the Singapore Trade Development Board at (65) 337 6628.

Singapore Trade Development Board

"TRADING NATIONS: THE ASIAN ENGINE (PART III)"
was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune.
WRITERS: *Julia Clerk and Joseph R. Yogerst, based in the United States and Asia; Mark Schumacher and Randon Ulland, based in Japan.*
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: *Bill Mahder.*

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TRADING NATIONS: THE ASIAN ENGINE

SPOTLIGHT

World Trade Congress Preview

The Singapore Trade Development Board (TDB), in conjunction with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Herald Tribune, is hosting the 1996 World Trade Congress at Singapore's Shangri-La Hotel on April 24 and 25.

Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore is delivering a keynote address on prospects and issues facing global trade in the 21st century. Other top-level speakers slated for the Congress include Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Amnuay Viravan (who will examine the emerging Southeast Asian marketplace) and Hartarto Sastrosoenarto, coordinating minister for production and distribution in Indonesia (who will discuss the delicate balance between domestic and international trade concerns).

Lively debate

Additional speakers include Renato Ruggiero, director-general of the WTO; Rubens Ricupero, secretary-general of UNCTAD; Sir Leon Brittan, vice president of the European Commission; and Yeo Cheow Tong, Singapore's minister for trade and industry.

The event will also include panel discussions among top government officials, as well as heads of major corporations and institutions worldwide – sessions that promise lively debate on significant issues.

Influential prelude

The World Trade Congress is an important prelude to the inaugural WTO ministerial meeting, scheduled for December in Singapore, and will help shape the agenda for the latter gathering. With that in mind, participants will explore the challenges and opportunities for international trade in the world's most dynamic economic regions, including Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region.

Among the event's foremost aims is fostering dialogue in the world trade arena, with a view to producing concrete and constructive exchanges among national leaders, international captains of industry and the WTO that will be crucial in defining the direction of tomorrow's trade.

Aside from the Singapore Trade Development Board and the International Herald Tribune, other sponsors of the World Trade Congress include Singapore Airlines (official airline), the International Chamber of Commerce and the Shangri-La Hotel Singapore. **J.R.Y.**

CURRENT-ACCOUNT DEFICITS ARE ON THE RISE

How much growth is too much of a good thing?

While the clock continues to tick down on the deadline for implementation of the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) and APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum) free-trade agreements, the overheating of certain Asian economies is beginning to cause some concern among governments in the region – concern that could result in some backtracking on open-market policies.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, recently warned Asia's finance ministers that more than half of APEC members have current-account deficits exceeding the acceptable level of 2.2 percent of GDP, including five countries with deficits in excess of 3.25 percent.

The countries most affected by this dilemma are Thailand and Malaysia (with current-account deficits of close to 8 percent of GDP) and Indonesia (around 4 percent).

Many governments in the Asia-Pacific region attribute their widening deficits to the importation of materials needed for huge infrastructure projects as well as plant and machinery to boost production and upgrade technology. But in many cases, a growing appetite for foreign cars, clothes and other consumer goods is also to blame. In Indonesia, the government says that a significant proportion of the recent increase in its current-account deficit is due to the importation of consumer products, which soared by 70.9 percent from January to September last year, compared with 8.9 percent a year earlier.

New five-year plan

Finance Minister Surakiart Sathirathai predicts that Thailand's relatively high inflation rate and $13 billion current-account deficit will come down this year as the pace of investment slows and exports grow rapidly. But "deficit reduction will be achieved in a decisive and orderly manner," without jeopardizing growth, he says. Thailand is reportedly considering selective curbs on foreign investment as one means of slowing deficit growth.

PHILIPPE GUIGNARD

Construction in Bangkok. Thailand might place some selective curbs on foreign investment.

The draft copy of Thailand's eighth five-year economic and social development plan calls for 8 percent GDP growth for the fiscal period 1997-2001 – a modest decline from the current plan's target of 8.4 percent growth. Government spokesman Amnaj Chanawong says that Thailand hopes to see the deficit narrow to 3.4 percent of GDP by the end of the eighth plan, which targets export increases of 16 percent during the half decade.

'Battle to death'

Indonesia's recently announced national budget (1996-97) was almost completely designed to trim the $7.9 billion current-account deficit. Jakarta hopes to achieve a figure of $6.9 billion (3.1 percent of GDP) by slowing imports and monitoring business lending, while maintaining a target of 7.1 percent economic growth.

Although it is a vocal advocate of free trade, the Indonesian government has called on people to buy Indonesian products in order to reduce the deficit. In addition, state-owned firms are being urged to procure locally, and companies both private and public are being told to "battle to death" to increase Indonesia's non-oil exports.

Jakarta is also promoting import substitution in local industry and working out measures to impose higher taxes on luxury items (many of which are imported).

Damned if you do(n't)

Malaysia earned a surplus of 653 million ringgit ($258.1 million) last December after a 1.6 billion ringgit deficit in October and a 40 million ringgit deficit in November – figures that prompted Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to declare that "the trend is now downward, so the assumption that our trade deficit is critical has been proven wrong."

But based on the estimated 18.1 billion ringgit current-account deficit for all of 1995, the Malaysian government has directed state enterprises and the private sector to slash unnecessary imports by carrying out an audit of the origins of the contents of their projects and making local substitutions wherever possible.

"This may result in some people complaining that we are imposing quotas on imports," Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad declared in defending the move. "And foreign companies may not feel happy." But if Malaysia does not impose quotas, "they will complain that we are not managing our economy properly. So you can't win in this game."

Julia Clerk

ASEAN EXPANDS, BUT HOW FAR?

Continued from page 19

Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi has criticized ASEAN's policy of constructive engagement with the Burmese regime because, she says, it focuses almost totally on economic rather than political and social change. "Apart from anything else, I do not think the Burmese economy is in as good a shape as ASEAN would like it to be," she told visiting reporters in March.

ASEAN economic ministers recently agreed to analyze prospective members more closely to ensure they can meet membership requirements. The ministers will look especially at the countries' ability to participate in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) project. AFTA mandates that tariffs on most goods traded between member states be reduced to between zero and 5 percent by the turn of the century. Vietnam, which joined ASEAN in July, has until 2006 to comply.

The Cambodian government is confident that the country is ready to join the bloc next year, and last month an ASEAN fact-finding mission traveled to Phnom Penh to assess preparedness for membership. It is thought that Cambodia will seek preferential treatment on AFTA, since the required reduction of import tariffs would adversely affect the country's main source of income. Cambodia's tariffs now range from 7 percent to 50 percent, with an additional 4 percent consumption tax on all imports.

Burma is also keen to enter the group, but does not think the country is quite ready to make the leap. Rangoon began introducing economic reforms in 1988 after more than a quarter-century of rigid central planning and isolationist policies, and economic advisors have warned that early entry to ASEAN could be counterproductive for the fragile Burmese economy.

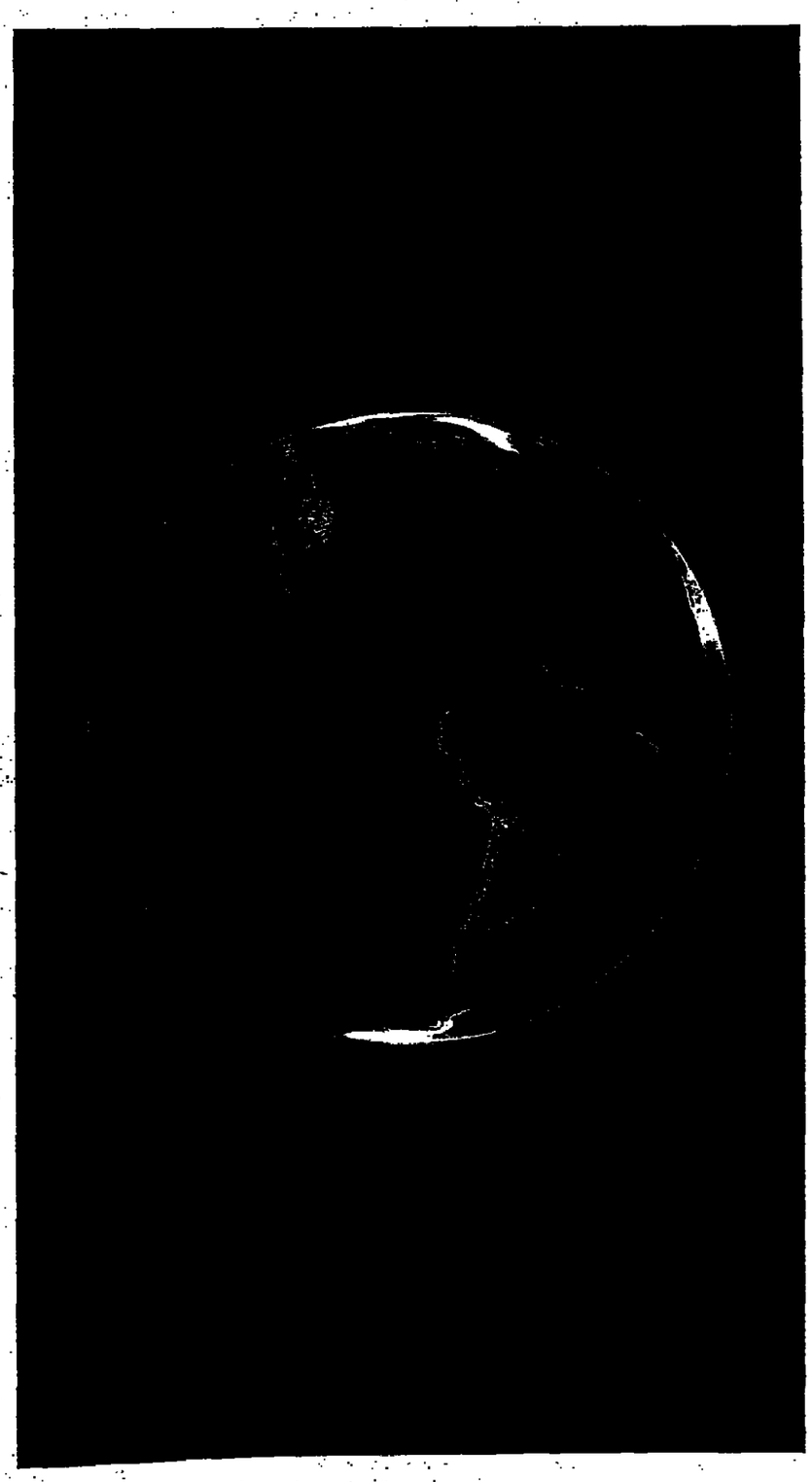
Most observers think the key to the successful integration of new members into ASEAN is a combination of political stability and economic growth. With that in mind, leaders of the "original six" have agreed to create a private sector infrastructure fund for future development of the Mekong Basin, focusing on areas within Cambodia, Laos and Burma. The project would provide the framework for cash-rich regional businesspeople to jump-start an economic growth triangle.

Even without new members, ASEAN is already a force to be reckoned with in the international trading arena. The group is currently the world's fourth-largest economic power (after the United States, the European Union and Japan), with two-way trade totaling $506 billion in 1994, up from $419 the previous year. Trade among ASEAN member countries increased 41 percent in 1994, to just over $111 billion.

Joseph R. Yogerst

THIERRY ORBANSYGMA

Haji Hassanal, the Sultan of Brunei



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TRADING NATIONS: THE JAPANESE OUTLOOK

ECONOMIC WOES, BUT RISING CLOUT

Despite the recession and a downspin in its trade surplus, Japan's economic influence is growing.

Talk of Japan's economic decline has dominated press coverage of the country recently. The yen's sharp rise, a debt-entangled financial sector, a grinding recession and five years of slumping profits have stymied growth, pushed unemployment to postwar highs and fueled social unrest. Japan is now often portrayed as an aging powerhouse, beset with the ailments of all mature industrial societies.

This diagnosis holds a kernel of truth. In large part, however, Japan's economic woes seem exaggerated. In fact, Japan appears to be growing leaner and meaner.

Consider this fact: Nearly all of Japan's top companies are moving production to low-cost offshore locales and importing the goods they make there back to Japan. This is especially true in Asia, where Japanese companies are investing at record rates and where Japan's trade with Asia continues to surpass its trade with both North America and Europe. Domestic production of cars and consumer electronics is slumping, but the downturn is mirrored by surging Japanese production of precisely the same goods overseas.

In 1994, for example, the combined overseas production of Japan's top five carmakers surpassed their exports from Japan. Electronics giant Sony Corp. plans to make more than 50 percent of its products outside Japan by 1998, up from 42 percent last year. World-leading camera maker Nikon Corp. recently announced plans to boost offshore production to 75 percent of total production by 1999, up from the current 30 percent.

Overseas plants still account for only 7 percent of Japan's total output – far less than the United States's rate of 26 percent or Germany's 15 percent – so there is room for considerable expansion.

Down but rising

In early February, doomsayers sharpened their quills when the Finance Ministry reported that Japan's 1995 current-account surplus fell by 14.5 percent year-on-year, to $110.43 billion. That was only the second fall in the past decade; the first occurred between 1988 and 1990, when Japan's surplus slumped to $35.7 billion. By 1993, however, Japan's surplus had reversed its course and jumped to an all-time high of $131.3 billion despite a recession at home.

Nevertheless, the same doomsayers insist that the current-account surplus will continue to fall because of Corporate Japan's continuing offshore exodus and the inroads being made by cut-price imports, thanks to deregulation and the high yen. With further declines in Japan's surplus expected, many point to a general deterioration in Japan's global economic standing.

A closer look, however, suggests the opposite. Two keys to understanding the situation are "reverse imports" – or products that Japanese companies make overseas and then sell in Japan – and booming production by offshore Japanese plants.

Cars are indicative of overall trends. Imported vehicles hit a record high in Japan in 1995, jumping to 402,608 units, up 20.9 percent from 1994. Reverse imports from overseas Japanese car plants accounted for 27 percent of that total. Suzuki and Isuzu, meanwhile, both made more four-wheel vehicles overseas than in Japan in 1995. Honda Motor Co., which meets about one-third of the world's demand for motorcycles, produces only 20 percent of its cycles domestically.

The situation is equally pronounced in the consumer electronics sector, where imports of foreign-made Japanese VCRs, stereos, cameras and air conditioners are approaching 50 percent of domestic production. Electronics giant Sanyo Electric forecasts that around 75 percent of the video recorders it will sell in Japan in 1996 will be produced by its overseas subsidiaries. Aiwa Co., a leading audio-visual equipment maker, now produces about 86 percent of its products overseas. It also procures about 90 percent of its parts abroad, as does computer powerhouse NEC. Offshore sales are also climbing rapidly. Sony Corp., for instance, now generates about 36 percent of its revenues from overseas sales.

Japan's offshore exodus has been swift and striking. In early April, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) announced that the value of Japan's overseas production of manufactured goods surpassed that of Japan's exports. The ministry said that the combined sales of Japanese offshore manufacturing plants reached 41.2 trillion yen ($382.5 billion), versus only 39.6 trillion yen in manufactured exports. These factories, moreover, are heavily reinvesting their profits locally, in contrast to Western competitors that repatriate much of their earnings.

As production moves offshore, so does Japanese capital. In 1994, Japan's investments in Asia surged 47 percent to hit an all-time high of $9.7 billion, making Asia the second most popular place for Japanese money after North America. In the first half of 1995, Japan's overseas foreign investment climbed another 27.7 percent, with the sharpest rises again occurring in Asia.

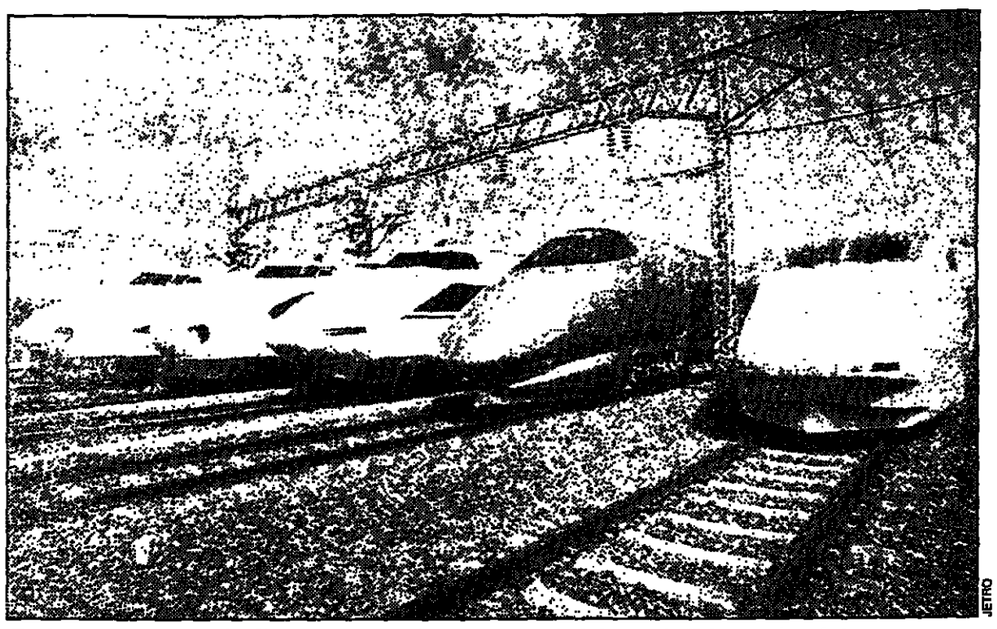
In contrast, corporate spending on domestic facilities remains stagnant, with major companies planning an increase of only 0.6 percent in 1996. As a percentage of total corporate spending, offshore investments account for 46 percent of all outlays in home appliances, 30 percent in automobiles and 13 percent for industry overall. Further, the operating profit margin of Japanese manufacturers in Asia is five times the global average, according to a MITI survey conducted in March 1995.

Healthy strain

Other statistics show Japan's expanding clout in Asia. Of the $14.2 billion in Japan's 1993 official development assistance (ODA) outlays, for example, nearly 60 percent went to Asia, where Japan outspends the United States by 20 to 1 in some crucial emerging markets, according to Robert M. Orr, a former U.S. aid official.

Japan is not falling behind in the race for economic leadership. Rather, its companies are unequivocally expanding their footholds in fast-growing Asia and beyond. As author Eamonn Fingleton recently wrote: "The Japan economy is like a cyclist pedaling uphill, and the strains are healthy ones."

Mark Schumacher



JETRO

The Japanese "bullet trains," or Shinkansen, have set international standards for speed, efficiency and comfort.

HOW TO OUTWIT THE SOARING YEN

Business travelers to Japan can take advantage of many ways of cutting costs and saving time.

Not everyone has the advantage of working for a corporation with an expense account big enough to soften the samurai blows of doing business in Japan. Many foreign businesspeople traveling to Japan to make initial business contacts or build on earlier successes are small companies or individual consultants without the means to sustain a lengthy stay in the country.

So what do you do when you have too few yen to fly around the country chasing potential suitors? Here are a few tips to stretch the most out of a tight budget while doing business in Japan.

Surf the Web

First, slip on your cybersuit and surf the World Wide Web, where English-language resources on Japan can quickly level the playing field between the haves and the have-nots.

Perhaps the best find for the economy-minded is the Business Support Center (http://www.jetro.go.jp/EXPORT/jet02-4.html), set up by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the nonprofit trade promotion arm of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. The BSC supplies office space, commercial advisers and office equipment, including phones, fax machines, computers and copiers, free of charge to approved applicants seeking export tie-ups in the country. Users can take advantage of the facilities and services for as little as two weeks or as long as five months, and they need pay only telecommunications, postage and copying expenses. In addition to Tokyo, the BSC operates branches in Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe. Reserve space well in advance of your visit, as BSC facilities are in heavy demand.

JETRO's own web site (http://www.jetro.go.jp/index.html) features an index with more than 10 data forums, ranging from government procurement and export assistance to statistics on the economy and other useful Internet links.

Worth looking at is the Nikkei Net (http://www.nikkei.co.jp/enews), the WWW home of Japan's leading business news conglomerate, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc. Among Nikkei selections is the Business Browser (http://www.nikkei.co.jp/enews/bb/guide.htm), which provides instant access to the home pages of nearly 200 major Japanese companies, their products and new business developments.

Three more recommended addresses containing scores of company listings and other data on corporate Japan are Silkroute Ventures' Asia Cyberspace page (http://www.asia on line.com/asia/ rsrc/ country/ japan.html), Keidanren's index of Japanese corporations and contact numbers (http://www.keidanren.or.jp/A2J/ index.html) and the joint WWW home page of Stanford University and NTT (http://jw.stanford.edu/BEF/bef.html). Be sure to select the Directory of Trade and Technology, which includes tons of information on Japanese databases, business associations, libraries, industrial groupings and credit-rating agencies.

Travel cheaply

After downloading dozens of business contacts and securing office space at the BSC, your next stop on the road to savings is finding a relatively inexpensive way to travel. For this purpose, nothing can beat the Japan Rail Pass, which can only be purchased outside Japan. Be sure to ask your travel agent to include the rail pass in your travel budget.

JR passes last one, two or three weeks, and cost 27,800 yen, 44,200 yen or 56,600 yen ($254-$519). The savings can be enormous. A regular round-trip ticket on the Shinkansen (bullet train) between Tokyo and Osaka, for example, costs nearly as much as a one-week pass.

The passes are good on all JR trains and the Shinkansen – but not on subways – and seats can be reserved at any JR station in advance. For train times and related questions, call the JR East Info Line (03-3423-0111) in Tokyo.

Beat jet lag

Once you've landed in Japan, you'll find that jet lag is a strong incentive to not skimp on lodging, at least for the first two or three days. Stay at the best hotel you can afford, remembering to take full advantage of the services provided to put you in a positive mind-set before your initial business meetings.

The Hotel Okura, for example, offers a comprehensive Jet Lag Plan. Free to Okura Club International members, and 10,000 yen to others, the program combines a solid exercise program in the fitness club and pool, with a post-workout rest in the jet-stream bath and sauna to help you start out your business day fit and fresh. Special jet-lag reduction meals are also available to assist with the time adjustment.

The little extra you shell out for comfort will reap dividends in reducing the side effects of hurtling between time zones.

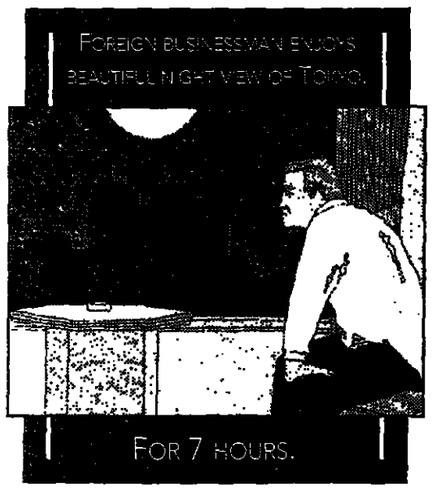
Note these numbers

Inexpensive lodging that caters to foreign needs can be found nationwide through the Tourist Information Center (03-3502-1461) and the Welcome Inn Reservation Center (03-3211-4201), both located in Tokyo. Reservations can be made in advance by faxing the Reservation Center at (03) 3211-9009. The TIC also has branches in Narita, Nagoya, Yokohama and Kyoto.

Randon Ulland

VERONICA GARBUTT

A bridge over calm water: The Otani Garden in Tokyo.



Poor guy. Jet lag hit him hard. Imagine how he felt the next day.

What can he do? Head for the Hotel Okura and curroll in our unique Jet Lag Plan. Specially designed to get jet laggers up on their feet and raring to go, it includes a Light Box to help put your body's clock back on schedule, a Health Club workout and Jet Bath, Relaxation Videos, a Body Sonic Massage, your choice of pillows to help you sleep better (we'll even remember your favorite for your next visit), and special breakfast and dinner suggestions for extra energy.

The Jet Lag Plan is only ¥10,000 extra per day, or free for members of the Okura Club International, our special program for frequent guests. To receive a free brochure simply send your name and address to Hotel Okura, Public Relations Office, 2-10-4 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105, Japan; Fax 3-3582-3707; Tel 3-3582-0111.

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NORTH STAR FUNDS

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North Star Group of Companies

WORLD ROUNDUP

Eric Gaillard/Reuters

Cedric Pioline eyeing the ball during his victory Tuesday.

Agassi Advances

TENNIS Cedric Pioline and Andre Agassi survived rain delays to win their first round matches at the Monaco Open on Monday. Pioline beat Hendrik Dreekmann, 6-3 6-3. Agassi beat Jan Siemerink, 6-2, 6-3. Sergi Bruguera, who had a foot operation last year, beat Andrea Gaudenzi in straight sets.. *(Reuters)*

Ski Officials Settle

SKIING A manslaughter case against Jan Tischauser and Kurt Hoch, two International Ski Federation officials, over the death of Ulrike Maier ended Tuesday when the prosecution accepted an offer of 600,000 Swiss francs ($490,000) in damages. The money will be paid to Maier's 6-year-old daughter, Melanie.

The court in Munich also ordered the two men to pay 10,000 Deutsche marks ($6,600) each to the mountain rescue service at Garmisch-Partenkirchen. *(AFP)*

Wellington Booted

RUGBY UNION Two opportunist tries in the final 14 minutes from scrumhalf Joggie Viljoen guided Western Province of South Africa to a 35-25 victory over Wellington province from New Zealand in a Super 12 game in Cape Town on Tuesday. *(Reuters)*

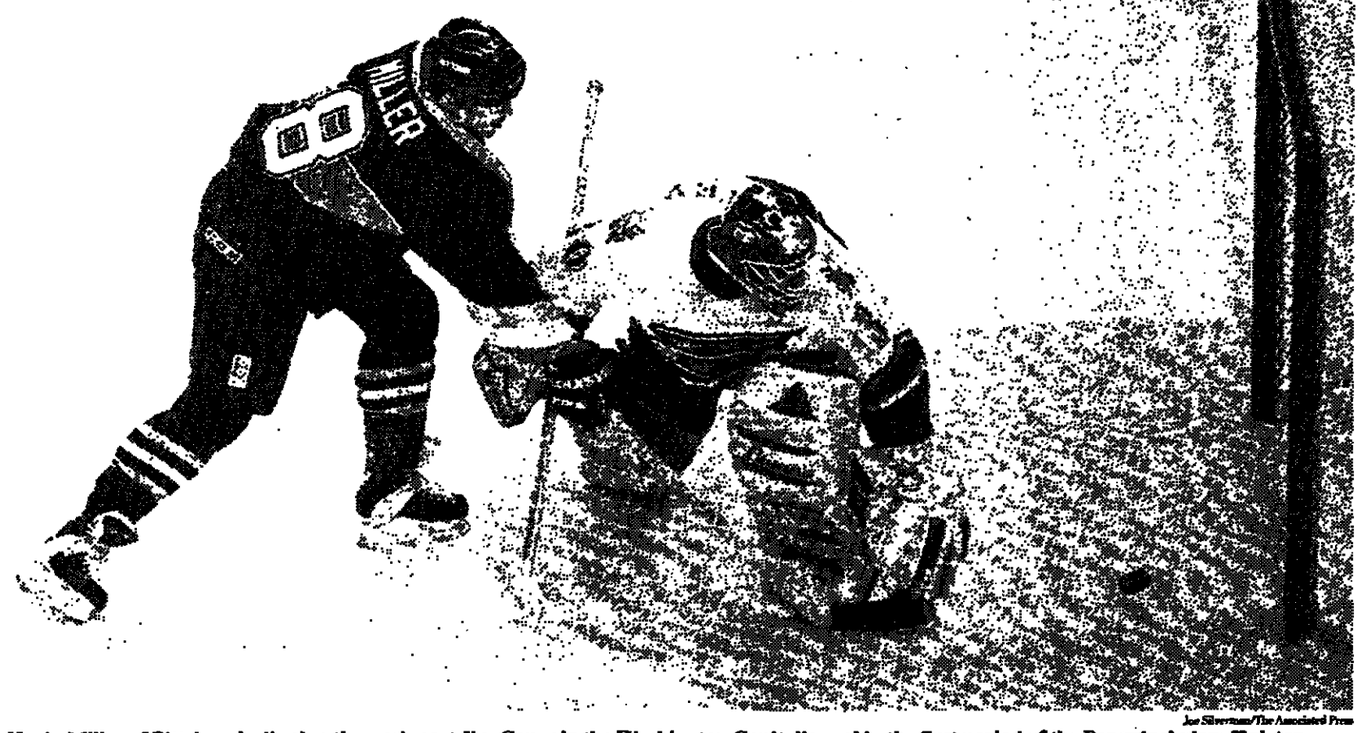
Bristow Quits Hornets

BASKETBALL Allan Bristow resigned as coach of the Charlotte Hornets on Tuesday after the club failed to make the NBA playoffs. In 1994-5 the Hornets won 50 games for the first time, but traded center Alonzo Mourning to the Miami Heat at the start of this season.

Since the regular season ended Sunday, three of the seven Eastern Conference teams which did not make the playoffs have parted with their coaches. On Monday, Toronto fired Brendan Malone and replaced him with an assistant, Darrell Walker, and New Jersey fired Butch Beard. *(AP)*

Tom Strattman/AP

Butch Beard gesturing during his last game as Nets' coach.



Joe Silverman/The Associated Press

Kevin Miller of Pittsburgh slipping the puck past Jim Carey in the Washington Capital's goal in the first period of the Penguins' playoff victory.

Penguins Win As Lemieux Takes Wing

The Associated Press

It must be the jerseys.

The Pittsburgh Penguins finally got a great game out of Mario Lemieux in their 4-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Monday night. Goaltender Tom Barrasso was excellent, too.

But give some credit to Pittsburgh's equipment manager, Steve Latin, who suggested the struggling Penguins wear their alternate uniforms in the critical third game of their playoff series.

Pittsburgh donned the flashy apparel and stretched its record to 7-0-0 in the new uniforms.

"Yeah, that's something we talked about; it worked again, I guess," said Lemieux, who had assists on all four Pittsburgh goals.

The victory enabled the Penguins to cut the Capitals' lead in games to 2-1. Pittsburgh is striving to become only the 10th team in NHL history to win a best-of-seven series after losing the first two games at home.

Lemieux finally found enough room on the ice to improvise. The Capitals limited the league's leading scorer to three assists in the first two games, but their depleted defense couldn't do it for a third straight game.

The four assists tied a franchise record. Led by Lemieux, the Penguins scored on two of their first three shots. They held a 2-0 lead in the first period of the first two games, too, but this time the advantage stood up.

That's because Barrasso was outstanding. After giving up nine goals in Games 1 and 2, he stopped 38 shots and was on the brink of his fifth career playoff shutout before Sylvain Cote scored a power-play goal with 7:31 remaining.

Washington, playing without seven injured regulars, went one-for-10 on the power play after converting four of 11 in the first two games.

Pittsburgh made it 3-0 in the second period when Dave Roche, in his first NHL playoff game, scored at the end of a two-on-one with Murray.

Miller took a centering pass from Lemieux and scored from between the circles at 16:00 of the period for a 4-0 lead.

Pittsburgh was outshot 10-3 in the first period and 17-1 in the third period.

Panthers 6, Bruins 2 At Miami, Dave Lowry scored two goals and John Vanbiesbrouck made 37 saves. Ray Sheppard scored a goal and assisted on three others, while Stu Barnes got three assists and Jason Woolley had a goal and assist.

Ed Jovanovski and Johan Garpenlov completed the Panthers' scoring.

Canucks 4, Avalanche 3 At Vancouver, the hosts got unexpected goals from two fourth-line players, Josef Beranek and Gino Odjick. Beranek played for the first time in the series and fired in the go-ahead goal before setting up Odjick for the winner.

NHL ROUNDUP

From Croatia to Beirut, Soccer Gives Hope

Sport Remains the Focus of Dreams Even in the World's War Zones

International Herald Tribune

Soccer/BY ROB HUGHES

PART OF THE irresistible attraction of soccer is its ability to sustain joy in the face of hopelessness, to offer legitimate pride in nationhood even in the aftermath of war.

On Wednesday, Croatia's fine players, who had tried to represent their people with a sense of mission throughout the war in the former Yugoslavia, will march into Wembley Stadium. They come to play a friendly against England, but to Zvonimir Boban, Robert Prosinecki and Alen Boksic the desire to take part goes beyond sport.

They arrived at their St. Albans hotel, north of London, in doubt because of leg injuries. It took them no time to convince the national coach Miroslav Blazevic that they were going to play.

Wembley, in their case, is more than a doubtful hamstring, more than the dream of boyhood. This game should have taken place a year ago, but England's Football Association scrapped the game after a British Broadcasting Corporation journalist was killed in the Balkans.

Now Croatia's players are determined not to miss the occassion. In contrast, partly because of injuries, partly because English clubs hold back players needed for crucial late-season games, England is 10 players short of its best squad.

You could judge it another way. With complete disregard to the public, England's uniforms now have a ghastly gray strip, imposed on it by its manufacturer. Umbro pays the price and Umbro calls the colors.

If the sponsor wished it, England would line up in dish cloths. Croatia, a team born out of war, would not be seen in anything but the red and white check of the new national flag.

It is a matter of pride and heritage.

Bosnia-Herzegovina also knows this.

Though its war damage was more ruinous, and it lost many players in soldier's uniform, Bosnia makes a start towards normality with a visit, also Wednesday, from Albania's squad for a friendly in the Muslim town of Zenica.

"It's a pleasure for us to go there at a time when calmness seems to have established in this war-torn country," said Gjergj Thaka, an Albanian soccer official. "We have nothing to fear by going to Bosnia."

Not many moons ago I was in Tirana — naturally with a visiting soccer team — and felt the gratitude of the people for this thin shaft of light sport could bring into their existence.

Three years ago, I accompanied teams from Asia who willingly journeyed where other men feared to tread, into Beirut.

The scenes of that Lebanon capital, destroyed by warring religious factions, will always be fresh in my mind. As will the energy, the enthusiasm, the determination of men such as Dr. Nabil El-Rae'e.

El Rae'e is a surgeon who built a new hospital on his father's orange orchard in the former occupied zone near Sidon. He was also the persuasive president of the Lebanese Football Association, a force that refused to go under even at the height of a war he called total madness.

The doctor's work, and his charms, came back to me last week. Almost on the day Israel put Lebanon back into the war zone, FIFA Magazine, published by the governing body of world soccer, dropped onto my peaceful doormat.

Its centerfold was Beirut revisited, with pictures and words of hope. The story involved Terry Yorath, a top soccer coach from Britain who a year ago accepted an invitation from El-Rae'e to rebuild the Lebanon national side.

There, against the ruins, Yorath is pictured kicking a ball with street kids, relaxing with old men, sitting besides a shell which is hopefully being recast as a 60,000-seat stadium to host the Pan-Arab Games, scheduled for September.

Impressed by the players' technique, heartened by the commitment which affords him training sessions twice every week — something most national coaches would give an eye tooth for — Yorath had repaid the Lebanon with nine wins from nine games.

"Life in the city is not nearly as sinister as I had suspected," the 46-year-old Welshman told Keith Cooper, FIFA's Director of Communications.

There followed messages of undiluted hope: of Sunni Muslims, Shiite Muslims and Christian Maronites coming together without rancor in the national cause. Football's primary creed played against a background that took 17 years to smash and may well take 17 years to piece together.

Yorath, of course, was talking before the latest hostilities. He is, or he was, a hard, hard soccer man, one whose reputation in international soccer and with Leeds United was uncompromising. In short, he was a destroyer.

YET HE is the most engaging company, a rounded man, a practicing Catholic, whose own bedrock is the family he had temporarily left behind in England. His wife Christine is a successful businesswoman, his remaining three children are scholars in a safe and settled environment.

I say remaining because Yorath has known tragedy too. He was playing is his own garden in May 1992 with his son Daniel: their favorite game, soccer, naturally, because Daniel at 15 was signed up to become an apprentice to his father's former club, Leeds United.

Without warning, without reason, the boy collapsed and died in Terry Yorath's arms of a rare heart condition.

"Losing Daniel made me a fatalist," Yorath said, though he admitted he kept a small wallet of his son's and used to touch it for luck now and then.

Tragedies of different scales have shaped Yorath's life. He was manager at Bradford the day that club's wooden stand burned down killing 56 spectators. He escaped the inferno only after ushering others to safety before finally bursting through a window to escape the fire.

Then, three years ago when Wales failed by a solitary point, a goal, to reach the World Cup, Yorath was unceremoniously dismissed — replaced behind his back by a man who had been a friend since schooldays, John Toshack.

Mrs Yorath had seen enough of soccer's darker elements; Terry Yorath still lives his game with a passion. He and Dr El-Rae'e make quite a pair — and from a distance I hope the new war is soon over and they can resume normal service.

"We have to play Kuwait (in both Asian Cup and World Cup qualifying)," Yorath told FIFA Magazine. "Like us, they are just piecing their team together after their own troubles. I really think we have a chance to go through, which would be a tremendous boost for the game here."

Hope is again soccer's gift in a field revisited by despair.

Rob Hughes is on the staff of the Times of London.

■ Top European Clubs Fined

Real Madrid was fined 105,000 Swiss francs ($85,000) Tuesday for violence by its fans during the European Cup quarter-final second leg match against Juventus last month, Reuters reported.

UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, said the fine took into account not only the violent behavior of some Real fans during the March 20 tie in Turin, but also "material and personal damage caused to the home club".

Juventus was fined a total of 55,000 Swiss francs for a pitch invasion, "setting off fireworks and organizational shortcomings" at the same game and in its semifinal game at Turin against Nantes.

Nantes was fined 10,000 Swiss francs for the conduct of its fans, players and officials at the return match in France. Panathinaikos of Greece was fined 15,000 francs because its fans threw fireworks and other objects in its semifinal game against Ajax in Athens.

U.S. and Italy Go To 2-0 in Hockey

Reuters

VIENNA — The United States and Italy scored impressive wins Tuesday to move to the top of the standings after two games each at the World Ice Hockey Championships.

Chris Tancill scored twice and Kevin Stevens fired the game winner as the United States beat Germany 4-2 in group A.

Bruno Zarillo scored a pair of goals as Italy beat Norway 4-0 in group B.

Stevens, a forward with the Los Angeles Kings and captain of the U.S. team, settled the often bad tempered contest five minutes into the third period when he slid a loose puck just inside the post to put the Americans up 3-2.

Thomas Chorske added a powerplay goal 10 minutes from the end.

San Jose Shark forward Tancill opened the scoring just 54 seconds into the first period when he took a feed from Brian Rolston in the high slot and blasted it past netminder Klaus Merk.

Germany came back with goals from captain Dieter Hegen and Mirko Lüdemann to pull in front 2-1.

Tancill, who had just seven goals with the Sharks this season, collected his second of the game with four minutes remaining in the second when his centering pass from behind the net deflected in off Merk's skate tying the score at 2-2.

In the day's opening match in group B, Norway failed to show the same spark that carried it to a 1-1 tie with reigning champions Finland on Sunday.

For Italy, it was the second win in 24 hours, after scraping by France 6-5 in their opening match.

Gaetano Orlando opened the scoring in the fifth minute of the second period after a lackluster first 20 minutes of play, tipping home a spectacular cross-ice pass from Lucio Topatigh.

Just two minutes later, Orlando, a former Buffalo Sabre, assisted on a goal by Bruno Zarillo to put Italy ahead 2-0.

Zarillo then found Topatigh alone in front of the net to make the score 3-0, before he scored his second of the game with just under five minutes left.

West Indies Wins By 10 Wickets

Reuters

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — The West Indies beat New Zealand by 10 wickets on the fourth day of the first test at Kensington Oval Tuesday.

In spite of an aggressive century by Nathan Astle, New Zealand had been bowled out for 305 after lunch in its second innings, leaving West Indies a victory target of 29 which the home team managed without losing a wicket.

Astle had hit a dashing 125 but could not halt the West Indies's drive towards victory.

Astle's wicket was one of three to fall in the morning session as the touring team made a spirited attempt to avoid losing by an innings.

At lunch New Zealand had reached 244 for seven. It added 61 runs for the loss of its last three wickets after the interval.

Astle, 82 not out overnight, perished as he had played throughout his innings — on the attack. He aimed a full-blooded drive at Patterson Thompson but only edged the ball and was caught head high by Sherwin Campbell.

His 125, scored off only 154 balls, contained 22 fours and two sixes.

Ian Bishop picked up the other two wickets. First, he trapped the obdurate Justin Vaughan leg before for 24, ending a fifth wicket stand of 144 with Astle, and then had Adam Parore caught by Campbell for one.

The Future Belongs to the Chinese TV Viewer

International Herald Tribune

Vantage Point/IAN THOMSEN

KENNINGTON, ENGLAND — Two or three decades from now, one of the world's powerful sports is going to be . . . table tennis.

Yes, someday someone will be complaining about the amount of money the players are making from Ping-Pong.

It couldn't happen now, given the overwhelming strength of American and European markets, but those markets will become less important as audiences grow elsewhere. The North American sports of basketball, hockey and even American football seem to understand this, considering their recent attempts to bolster themselves internationally. They are all using modern marketing to try and catch up with soccer, which grew more much more naturally. Every game is united in its hope of one day moving into China.

In China there are 1.2 billion people, and, for moment, just one television for every 33 of them. The U.S., by comparison, is saturated. There are something like four TVs for every five people. What is going to happen as, sadly, Chinese society gathers around more and more televisions?

The people aren't going to settle for dubbed American reruns. The audience — potentially five times larger than the U.S. will demand programming suited to Chinese tastes. Soccer and the other sports might be growing, but none of them can match the popularity of Chinese table tennis.

China has been strong in table tennis since the 1960s, when it began challenging Japan's supremacy. Five of the top 11 men in the world are Chinese (which represents a weakening of China's dominance), while all 14 of the top women were born in China.

If you take the top 50 men and the top 32 women in the world, 82 players in all, half are originally Chinese, including 17 who are playing for other countries.

China has been exporting players and coaches for decades. Patrizio Deniso was taught the game by a Chinese coach. Today Deniso, 37, is the Italian national team coach, and his best player, ranked 18th in the world, is Yang Min. He was lured out of Shanghai by a club in Cagliari eight years ago.

"I was probably among the top quarter of the best players in China at the time, but I didn't have much of a future in China because there are so many good players," Min, 33, said during the recent English Open, which launched a $500,000 Pro Tour that will visit five continents this year. "Italy was quite low when I first came, but now we are 10th in the world because a lot of foreigners have come to play in Italy — some Chinese, Bulgarian, Yugoslavian, Russian."

WHILE SOME Chinese move privately, others are transferred or loaned-out by the Chinese federation — a practice that raised the standards of play in Europe, and helped Sweden to overtake China in the three world championships from 1989 to 1993. China has also gained from the exchange and its players have adapted to the more powerful European style, largely forsaking the "penholder" grip which uses one side of the racket.

China won all four world titles last year, led by "King" Kong Linghui, the men's champion at 19 years old. He had played in the Swedish junior league for two years.

"I don't think China will dominate the Olympics this summer," said Zlatko Cordas, the German national men's coach. "Kong is very strong, but very young, and all of the European top players have already played in the last two Olympic Games. The Olympics is different from any other tournament, and he will have to adjust to that very fast.

"But it's going to be difficult to beat China in team competitions for the next six to eight years. The Chinese players are in their early 20s, while the Europeans are 26 to 28. For the next two to three years we will stay in touch, but after that China will dominate like before."

Cordas gives credit to the Chinese for supplying players for the 12-team Bundesliga, the world's top league for table tennis. The German season runs from August through May, drawing sell-out crowds of 3,000 to the biggest matches.

"The Chinese federation has also been selling top players to companies within China, to develop clubs with the idea of making a world championship for clubs," said Michel Gadal, coach of Canada and the world No. 6 woman Geng Lijuan, a Chinese immigrant. "If they are able to build a world championship for clubs, I think we will see it grow very fast."

For decades, when talking about "world-famous" events, we have never thought whether the Chinese were interested or cared. They care about table tennis.

"The next step is to sell table tennis as a product," Gadal said. "If we don't go in that direction, I think we will stay where we are; but if we make it a show, I think it is really going to take off. The new era of Olympic sports is looking like golf, beach volleyball, windsurfing. The tradition of the original Greek sports is over."

And, no, they don't like you calling it Ping-Pong.

هكذا من الأصل

SPORTS

Maddux Regains Stride Against L.A.

The Associated Press

Greg Maddux pitched his first complete game of the season Monday night, allowing eight hits as the Atlanta Braves beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-1.

He threw strikes on 77 of 108 pitches, got 17 ground

NL Roundup

ball outs, struck out seven and walked none.

"Tonight I located my fastball better and pitched down better than I have," said Maddux, who has won four straight Cy Young Awards.

His pitching and the hitting of Ryan Klesko — whose two-run homer tied him with Florida's Gary Sheffield for the NL lead with nine — helped Atlanta to its sixth win in eight games following a 5-7 start.

"Sometimes one run is all he (Maddux) needs," said losing pitcher Tom Candiotti, who gave up four runs and six hits in five innings. "If he gets two or more, he'll lock the door on you."

Padres 5, Marlins 3 At Miami, Andy Ashby pitched a seven-hitter and drove in the tie-breaking run with a sacrifice fly to snap Florida's four-game winning streak. Scott Livingtone hit a solo homer and an RBI single for San Diego. Sheffield hit his ninth homer for the Marlins.

Expos 8, Cardinals 0 At Montreal, Rheal Cormier pitched a three-hitter and Henry Rodriguez homered twice and drove in five runs as the Expos won their fourth straight.

Cormier struck out nine and walked none in his first career shutout. Rodriguez, starting in left field in place of injured Moises Alou, hit a two-run homer in the third off Donovan Osborne and a three-run drive in the seventh off T.J. Mathews.

Mets 5, Reds 1 At New York, Paul Wilson shut down Cincinnati on three hits in eight innings for his first major league win.

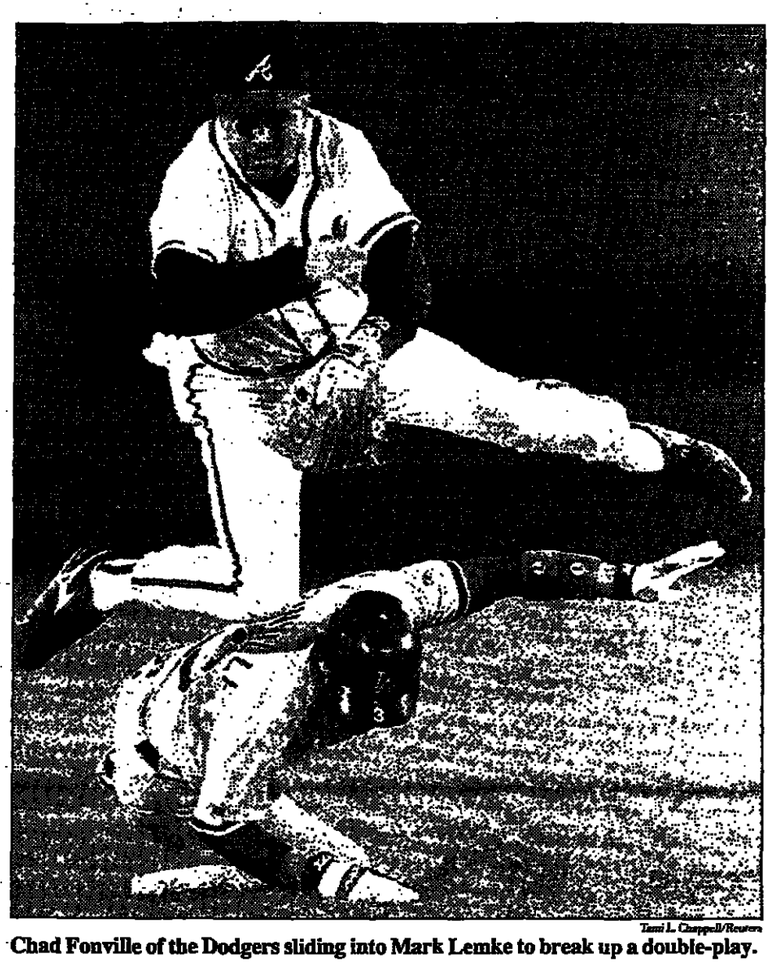
Mark Portugal remained winless in four starts, allowing all five runs and 11 hits in eight innings, but his ERA dropped from 6.60 to 6.14. Jose Vizcaino hit a two-run homer and Lance Johnson had three singles for the Mets.

Pirates 9, Phillies 3 At Philadelphia, Jacob Brumfield hit a two-run homer and drove in a career-high four runs as Pittsburgh stopped a three-game losing streak. Danny Darwin allowed three runs and also had a two-run double and a single, his first hits since Aug. 16, 1990.

Pittsburgh had 16 hits, three each by Charlie Hayes, Jeff King and Brumfield. Terry Mulholland lasted only 3⅓ innings, giving up six runs and eight hits.

Rockies 4, Cubs 2 At Chicago, Marvin Freeman pitched seven strong innings as Colorado beat the Cubs despite Ryne Sandberg's 250th career homer.

Freeman, a Chicago native, allowed four hits and improved his career record against the Cubs to 5-1, including 4-0 at Wrigley Field. Sandberg hit his fifth homer of the season in the first, becoming the 10th major league player with 250 homers and 250 steals.



Tami L. Chappell/Reuters

Chad Fonville of the Dodgers sliding into Mark Lemke to break up a double-play.

Astros 11, Giants 8 At San Francisco, Rick Wilkins homered, doubled and singled twice, driving in two runs and scoring three times for Houston. The Astros also took advantage of five Giants errors. Shawon Dunston made four errors on ground balls at shortstop, and first baseman Mark Carreon made a throwing error.

■ Strawberry Pays

Former baseball star Darryl Strawberry agreed to pay $300,000 in overdue spouse and child support to avoid criminal prosecution as a "deadbeat dad."

Strawberry, cut by the Yankees last season, was not in court for the hearing in Los Angeles; the agreement was made by his attorney.

Strawberry will also pay $10,000 a month to make up a further $194,912 he owes his former wife and their two children. *(WP)*

Indians, at Home, Get By Orioles Again, 6-3

The Associated Press

So far, Jacobs Field is no friend to the Baltimore Orioles.

Monday night's 6-3 victory made it eight straight for Cleveland against Baltimore at Jacobs Field, their second-year stadium. Cleveland has won four straight overall and

AL Roundup

nine of 10. Jim Thome broke a 3-3 tie with a sixth-inning homer off Scott Erickson on a 3-0 pitch.

"When I get a 3-0 count, I try to hit the lights," Thome said. That's my theory."

Consecutive doubles by Omar Vizquel and Kenny Lofton later in the inning finished Erickson. Cleveland added a run in the eighth on a balk by rookie Brian Sackinsky.

Charles Nagy allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings, striking out four and walking one.

Jim Poole pitched two scoreless innings and José Mesa worked a scoreless ninth for his fifth save in five tries.

Blue Jays 16, Mariners 7 Joe Carter had a grand slam and five runs batted in and Ed Sprague had two homers and five RBIs at the Kingdome.

Carter, who had three homers and nine RBIs in the series, connected in the fifth off Tim Davis for his eighth career grand slam.

Tony Castillo pitched three scoreless innings. Ed Hurtado allowed four runs and two hits in 2⅓ innings after starter Sterling Hitchcock gave up five runs and eight hits in 2⅓ innings.

White Sox 12, Rangers 4 Harold Baines and Robin Ventura hit consecutive homers in the sixth and Ventura and Danny Tartabull hit back-to-back homers in the eighth as visiting Chicago stopped the Rangers' five-game winning streak.

Baines's three-run homer gave Chicago an 8-2 lead against Bobby Witt who gave up nine runs and 11 hits in 5⅓ innings.

Angels 6, Tigers 5 Jorge Fabregas hit a go-ahead homer, his second home run in 391 major league at-bats, in the eighth off Mike Christopher. His only other homer came against Jason Bere of the Chicago White Sox last June 18 in his 181st career at-bat, the most of any major leaguer without a home run then.

Jim Edmonds and Chili Davis also hit two-run homers as California rallied to complete a 6-0 home stand. Detroit has lost six in a row.

Mike James retired five straight batters and Troy Percival struck out the side in the ninth for his seventh save in seven chances.

Athletics 6, Brewers 2 Carlos Reyes allowed one run and two hits in five innings for the As before leaving with stiffness in his right shoulder.

Pedro Munoz and Geronimo Berroa each hit two-run homers as Oakland stopped visiting Milwaukee's seven-game winning streak. Ricky Bones gave up four runs and five hits in five innings.

John Briscoe got his first save, retiring Matt Mieskie on a bases-loaded grounder. Attendance was 6,021, the smallest crowd in the majors this season.

Red Sox 4, Twins 1 Wil Cordero had three hits and drove in three runs, leading visiting Boston to its fourth victory in 19 games.

Aaron Sele allowed just four hits in six innings, outdueling Rich Robertson, who gave up three hits through six before Boston rallied.

Heathcliff Slocumb pitched the ninth for his third save.

Yankees 6, Royals 2 David Cone won against his home-town club even though he lasted just five innings and Tino Martinez hit a two-run double as the visiting Yankees sent Kansas City to its sixth straight loss. New York had 14 hits, three each by Wade Boggs, Derek Jeter and Joe Girardi.

Cone, who has been traded twice by the Royals, allowed four hits, walked five and struck out six. Kevin Appier gave up five runs and nine hits in seven innings.

"I grew up a fan and watching those guys play the Yankees in the playoffs," Cone said before his first start against Kansas City as a Yankee. "I really hated the Yankees. Now I'm a Yankee trying to beat the Royals. It's very ironic for me."

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Major League Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	11	7	.611	—
New York	9	7	.563	1
Toronto	9	10	.474	2½
Detroit	8	13	.381	4½
Boston	4	15	.211	7½

CENTRAL DIVISION

Cleveland	11	6	.647	—
Milwaukee	10	7	.588	1
Chicago	9	9	.500	2½
Minnesota	7	10	.412	4
Kansas City	5	14	.263	7

WEST DIVISION

Texas	13	5	.722	—
Seattle	13	7	.650	½
California	11	8	.579	2½
Oakland	8	10	.444	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Montreal	12	7	.632	—
Atlanta	11	9	.550	1½
Philadelphia	8	10	.444	3½
Florida	8	12	.400	4½
New York	6	11	.353	5

CENTRAL DIVISION

St. Louis	11	9	.550	—
Chicago	10	9	.526	½
Houston	10	9	.526	½
Cincinnati	9	10	.474	1½
Pittsburgh	9	10	.474	1½

WEST DIVISION

San Diego	12	7	.632	—
San Francisco	10	9	.526	2
Colorado	9	9	.500	2½
Los Angeles	8	12	.400	4½

MONDAY'S LINE SCORES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Baltimore	000 102 000	—3	10 1
Cleveland	210 012 01x	—6	12 1

Erickson, A. Rhodes (6), J. Myers (7), Orosco (8), Sackinsky (8) and Hoiles; Nagy, Poole (7), Mesa (9) and S. Alomar. W—Nagy, 3-0. L—Erickson, 1-1. Sv—Mesa (5). HR—Cleveland, Thome (2).

Boston	000 000 220	—4	9 0
Minnesota	000 100 000	—1	5 1

Sele, Stanton (7), Bellinda (8), Slocumb (9) and Stanley; Robertson, Hansell (7), Guardado (7), Mahomes (8) and Bennett (8) and G. Myers. W—Sele, 1-1. L—Robertson, 0-4. Sv—Slocumb (3).

New York	200 120 010	—6	14 0
Kansas City	010 010 000	—2	6 1

Cone, M. Rivera (6), Wetteland (9) and Girardi; Appier, Robinson (8), Magnante (8), T. Clark (9) and Fasano. W—Cone, 3-1. L—Appier, 1-3.

Chicago	500 004 021	—12	16 1
Texas	000 021 100	—4	12 0

A.Fernandez, Karchner (6) and Karkovice; B.Witt, Helling (6) and L.Rodriguez, Valle (9). W—A. Fernandez, 3-1. L—B. Witt, 2-1. Sv—Karchner (1). HRs—Chicago, Baines (4); Vaughn 2 (4), Tarasco (2).

Milwaukee	000 100 001	—2	5 1
Oakland	400 000 20x	—6	7 0

Bones, Potts (6), Carpenter (7) and Mathews; Reyes, Wengert (6), Groom (9), Briscoe (9) and Williams. W—Reyes, 2-3. L—Bones, 1-3. Sv—Briscoe (1). HRs—Mil., Jaha (3). Oak., Berroa (2), Munoz (2).

Detroit	201 010 100	—5	10 0
California	201 020 01x	—6	12 0

Lira, Christopher (5), M. Myers (8) and Flaherty; Finley, Boskie (6), James (7), Percival (9) and Fabregas. W—James 4-1. L—Christopher, 0-1. Sv—Percival (7). HRs—Detroit, Lewis (2). California, Edmonds (6), C. Davis (4), Fabregas (1).

Toronto	002 070 000	—16	17 1
Seattle	004 100 020	—7	11 0

Stanifill, Castillo (5), Bohanon (8), Risley (9) and O'Brien; Hitchcock, Hurtado (5), T. Davis (5), Ayala (7) and Wilson, Manzano (8). W—Castillo, 1-0. L—Hurtado, 1-3. HRs—Toronto, Carter (5), Sprague 2 (5). Seattle, Buhner (4), Sorrento (5), R. Davis (3), Diaz (1).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

San Diego	010 021 010	—5	10 2
Florida	002 000 010	—3	7 1

Ashby and Ausmus; Burkett, Weathers (8) and C. Johnson. W—Ashby, 3-0. L—Burkett, 1-3. HRs—Florida, Sheffield (9), K. Abbott (2). San Diego, Livingstone (1).

Pittsburgh	003 300 201	—9	16 0
Philadelphia	001 000 200	—3	6 0

Darwin, Lieber (7), Plesac (8), Miceli (9) and Kendall; Mulholland, Mimbs (4), Borland (6), Frey (8) and Lieberthal. W—Darwin, 2-2. L—Mulholland, 2-2. HRs—Philadelphia, Santiago (5). Pittsburgh, Brumfield (1), Martin (5).

St. Louis	000 000 000	—0	3 1
Montreal	102 200 30x	—8	10 1

Osborne, Bailey (6), Mathews (7), Parrett (8) and Pagnozzi; Cormier and D. Fletcher. W—Cormier, 1-1. L—Osborne, 1-7. HRs—Montreal, H. Rodriguez 2 (7).

Cincinnati	000 010 000	—1	5 2
New York	200 021 00x	—5	11 0

Portugal, Moore (8) and Taubensee; P.Wilson, D. Henry and Hundley. W—P. Wilson, 1-1. L—Portugal, 0-3. HR—New York, Vizcaino (1).

Los Angeles	000 100 000	—1	5 0
Atlanta	010 300 00x	—4	8 1

Candiotti, Eischen (6), Guthrie (8) and Piazza; Maddux and Lopez. W—Maddux, 3-1. L—Candiotti, 1-2. HR—Atla., Klesko (9).

Colorado	000 040 000	—4	7 1
Chicago	100 100 000	—2	4 0

Freeman, S. Reed (8), B. Ruffin (8), Leskanic (9) and Je.Reed; Navarro, Myers (9), B. Patterson (9) and Servais. W—Freeman, 2-2. L—Navarro, 0-3. Sv—Leskanic (5). HR—Chi., Sandberg (5).

Houston	051 012 020	—11	15 0
San Francisco	300 002 003	—8	14 5

Reynolds, Tabaka (7), Young (9) and Wilkins; Leiter, Bourgeois (5), Barton (7) and Decker. W—Reynolds, 3-1. L—Leiter, 1-3. HRs—Houston, Wilkins (3). San Francisco, McCarty (1).

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

Player, Team	G	AB	R	H	Avg.
IRodriguez Tex	18	68	16	26	.382
FThomas ChW	18	71	15	27	.380
ONeill NYY	15	60	10	22	.367
JGonzalez Tex	14	52	10	19	.365
EMartinez Sea	20	72	20	26	.361
Seitzer Mil	17	61	12	22	.361
Giambi Oak	17	64	13	23	.359
RAlomar Bal	18	68	13	24	.353
ByAnderson Bal	18	68	17	24	.353
PMunoz Oak	17	67	10	23	.343
Molitor Min	17	67	11	23	.343

Runs—EMartinez, Seattle, 20; Hamilton, Texas, 19; Curtis, Detroit, 17; Lofton, Cleveland, 17; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 17; ByAnderson, Baltimore, 17; Tettleton, Texas, 17; Nixon, Toronto, 17.

RBI—JGonzalez, Texas, 21; Fielder, Detroit, 21; Barrow, Oakland, 20; Fryman, Detroit, 19; Palmer, Texas, 19; Carter, Toronto, 19; Edmonds, California, 18; FThomas, Chicago, 18; GVaughn, Milwaukee, 18; WClark, Texas, 18.

Hits—MLewis, Detroit, 28; FThomas, Chicago, 27; IRodriguez, Texas, 26; EMartinez, Seattle, 26; Curtis, Detroit, 25; Carter, Toronto, 25; RAlomar, Baltimore, 24; ByAnderson, Baltimore, 24.

Doubles—EMartinez, Seattle, 10; ARodriguez, Seattle, 9; Nieves, Detroit, 8; RAlomar, Baltimore, 8; Greer, Texas, 7; IRodriguez, Texas, 7; Boerga, Cleveland, 7.

Triples—Durham, Chicago, 3; Meares, Minnesota, 2; GeWilliams, New York, 2; JsValentin, Milwaukee, 2; Thome, Cleveland, 2; Griffen, Chicago, 2; 37 are tied with 1.

Home runs—Fielder, Detroit, 9; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 8; ByAnderson, Baltimore, 8; FThomas, Chicago, 7; GVaughn, Milwaukee, 7; Edmonds, California, 6; Palmer, Texas, 6; Belle, Cleveland, 6; Barrow, Oakland, 6.

Stolen bases—Lofton, Cleveland, 15; TGoodwin, Kansas City, 13; Baffie, Oakland, 5; Hosey, Boston, 5; Curtis, Detroit, 5; Vizquel, Cleveland, 5; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 4; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 4; RAlomar, Baltimore, 4; Nixon, Toronto, 4.

Pitching (3 Decisions)—RJohnson, Seattle, 4-0, 1.000, 2.91; Karchner, Chicago, 3-0, 1.000, 1.84; Petitte, New York, 3-0, 1.000, 2.63; Hitchcock, Seattle, 3-0, 1.000, 3.77; Pavlik, Texas, 3-0, 1.000, 4.76; Nagy, Cleveland, 3-0, 1.000, 3.60; McDonald, Milwaukee, 3-0, 1.000, 1.80.

Strikeouts—RJohnson, Seattle, 47; AFernandez, Chicago, 36; Appier, Kansas City, 34; Guzman, Toronto, 31; Cone, New York, 29; Finley, California, 29; Radke, Minnesota, 28.

Saves—Percival, California, 7; Mesa, Cleveland, 5; Stevens, Minnesota, 4; RHernandez, Chicago, 4; Vosberg, Texas, 4; RMyers, Baltimore, 4; Slocumb, Boston, 3; Timlin, Toronto, 3; Montgomery, Kansas City, 3; Henneman, Texas, 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE LEADERS

Player, Team	G	AB	R	H	Avg.
TGwynn SD	14	53	11	25	.472
Joyner SD	17	66	13	30	.455
Lansing Mon	19	75	15	30	.400
Wilkins Hou	15	48	9	19	.396
Taubensee Cin	15	53	11	21	.396
Klesko Atl	20	67	16	26	.388
Gonzalez ChC	18	55	9	21	.382
Bagwell Hou	19	66	17	25	.379
Segui Mon	15	59	12	22	.373
Burks Col	17	65	17	24	.369

Runs—Grudzielanek, Montreal, 19; MaWilliams, San Francisco, 19; BLHunter, Houston, 18; Bonds, San Francisco, 18; Martin, Pittsburgh, 17; Bagwell, Houston, 17; Sheffield, Florida, 17; Burks, Colorado, 17.

RBI—HRodriguez, Montreal, 20; DBell, Houston, 20; Bonds, San Francisco, 19; Bagwell, Houston, 18; Bichette, Colorado, 18; Cameron, San Francisco, 18; Klesko, Atlanta, 17; Alou, Montreal, 17.

Hits—BLHunter, Houston, 31; Grudzielanek, Montreal, 30; Lansing, Montreal, 30; Joyner, San Diego, 30; Grace, Chicago, 29; DBell, Houston, 28; Piazza, Los Angeles, 27.

Doubles—Joyner, San Diego, 11; Lansing, Montreal, 9; Berry, Houston, 9; DBell, Houston, 8; Grace, Chicago, 8; Brogna, New York, 7; Taubensee, Cincinnati, 7; Caminiti, San Diego, 7; MaWilliams, S. Francisco, 7.

Triples—LJohnson, New York, 4; DeShields, Los Angeles, 3; Dykstra, Philadelphia, 3; RWhite, Montreal, 2; Branson, Cincinnati, 2; Clayton, St. Louis, 2; DBell, Houston, 2; RHenderson, S. Diego, 2.

Home runs—Klesko, Atlanta, 9; Sheffield, Florida, 9; HRodriguez, Montreal, 7; Hundley, New York, 7; Bagwell, Houston, 6; Bonds, San Francisco, 6; 10 are tied with 5.

Stolen bases—McRae, Chicago, 10; BLHunter, Houston, 7; DeShields, Los Angeles, 7; Clayton, St. Louis, 6; Morandini, Philadelphia, 6; Whiten, Philadelphia, 6; 6 are tied with 5.

Pitching (3 Decisions)—Fernandez, San Francisco, 3-0, 1.000, 4.26; AlBenes, St. Louis, 3-0, 1.000, 2.42; Grace, Philadelphia, 3-0, 1.000, 4.25; TaJones, Houston, 3-0, 1.000, 3.55; Foster, Chicago, 3-0, 1.000, 6.86; Wagner, Pittsburgh, 3-0, 1.000, .77; Ashby, San Diego, 3-0, 1.000, 3.52.

Strikeouts—Smoltz, Atlanta, 35; Nomo, Los Angeles, 31; GMaddux, Atlanta, 29; AlBenes, St. Louis, 28; Neagle, Pittsburgh, 28; Navarro, Chicago, 28; SFernandez, Philadelphia, 26.

Saves—Battaglia, Philadelphia, 5; Leskanic, Colorado, 5; Wohlers, Atlanta, 5; JBrantley, Cincinnati, 5; Eckersley, St. Louis, 5; Beck, San Francisco, 4; TaJones, Houston, 3; Hoffman, San Diego, 3; TdWorrell, Los Angeles, 3.

Japanese Leagues

CENTRAL LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Yokohama	11	4	0	.733	—
Chunichi	8	7	0	.533	3
Hiroshima	8	7	0	.533	3
Yakult	7	8	0	.467	4
Hanshin	6	9	0	.400	5
Yomiuri	4	9	0	.308	6

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Yokohama 3, Hanshin 2
Chunichi 3, Yakult 0
Hiroshima 7, Yomiuri 4

PACIFIC LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Kintetsu	11	5	0	.688	—
Nippon Ham	11	6	0	.647	½
Orix	10	6	0	.526	2½
Lotte	9	10	0	.474	3½
Daiei	7	11	0	.389	5
Seibu	6	13	0	.316	6½

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Nippon Ham 4, Kintetsu 2
Seibu 4, Orix 3
Daiei 2, Lotte 0

BASKETBALL

NBA SCORING LEADERS

Final Scoring Leaders of 1995-96:

Player, Team	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Jordan, Chi.	82	916	548	2491	30.4
Olajuwon, Hou.	72	768	397	1936	26.9
O'Neal, Orl.	54	592	249	1434	26.6
Malone, Utah	82	789	512	2106	25.7
Robinson, S.A.	82	711	626	2051	25.0
Barkley, Phoe.	71	590	440	1649	23.2
Mourning, Mia.	70	563	488	1623	23.2
Richmond, Sac.	81	611	425	1872	23.1
Ewing, N.Y.	76	678	351	1711	22.5
Howard, Wash.	81	733	319	1789	22.1
Hardaway, Orl.	82	622	445	1780	21.7

HOCKEY

NHL Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
(BEST-OF-7)

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Pittsburgh	2	2	0—4
Washington	0	0	1—1

First Period: P-Francis 2 (Lemieux, Jagr) (pp). 2. P-Murray 1 (Zubov, Lemieux). Second Period: P-Roche 1 (Murray, Lemieux). 4. Pittsburgh, Miller 1 (Lemieux). Third Period: W-Cote 2 (Peake) (pp). Shots on goal: P- 3-15-1—19. W- 10-12-17—39. Goalies: P-Barrasso, W-Carey.
(Washington leads series 2-1).

Boston	0	2	0—2
Florida	1	3	2—6

First Period: F-Jovanovski 1 (Laus, Sheppard). Second Period: F-Sheppard 3 (Woolley, Barnes) (pp). 3. B-Bourque 1 (Moger, Stumpel) (pp). 4. F- Lowry 1 (Barnes, Sheppard). 5. F-Lowry 2 (Barnes, Sheppard). 6. B-Heinze 1 (Oates) (sh). Third Period: F-Woolley 2. 8. F-Gorpenlov 2 (Niedermayer, Laus). Shots on goal: B- 9-18-12—39. F- 8-10-10—28. Goalies: B-Billington. F-Vanbiesbrouck.
(Florida leads series 2-0).

Colorado	1	1	1—3
Vancouver	1	3	0—4

First Period: C- Keane 1 (Ricci, Yelle). 2. V- Tikkanen 2 (Mogilny, Linden) (pp). Second Period: C- Deadmarsh 1 (Sakic, Lefebvre). 4. V- Lumme 1 (Mogilny, Tikkanen) (pp). 5. V- Beranek 1 (Naslund, Mogilny). 6. V- Odjick 3 (Beranek). Third Period: C- Sakic 3 (Young, Krupp). Shots on goal: C- 14-8-11—33. V- 13-11-2—26. Goalies: C- Roy. V-Hirsch.
(Series tied at 2-2).

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
IN VIENNA

FIELD HOCKEY RESULTS

Italy 6, France 5
Russia 6, Slovakia 2

RUGBY

SUPER 12 RUGBY UNION

Western Province 35, Wellington 25

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

CHICAGO—Recalled RHP James Baldwin from Nashville, AA. Put RHP Jason Bere on 15-day disabled list, retroactive to April 21.

MILWAUKEE—Put OF Chuckie Carr on 15-day disabled list. Recalled 1B Tim Unroe from New Orleans, AA.

SEATTLE—Put SS Alex Rodriguez on 15-day disabled list. Recalled INF Andy Sheets from Tacoma, PCL.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

CINCINNATI—Put OF Reggie Sanders on 15-day disabled list, retroactive to April 20. Recalled OF Chad Mottola from Indianapolis, AA.

COLORADO—Activated INF Eric Young from 15-day disabled list. Sent INF Pedro Castellano outright to minor leagues. Put OF Harvey Pulliam on 60-day disabled list.

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MOVE WHILE YOU'RE DANCING."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DOPEK
GWOIN
ENGOBY
DUNAOL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUAIL DINER TRUSTY VISION
Answer: What the cops called their auto mechanics — THE VISE SQUAD

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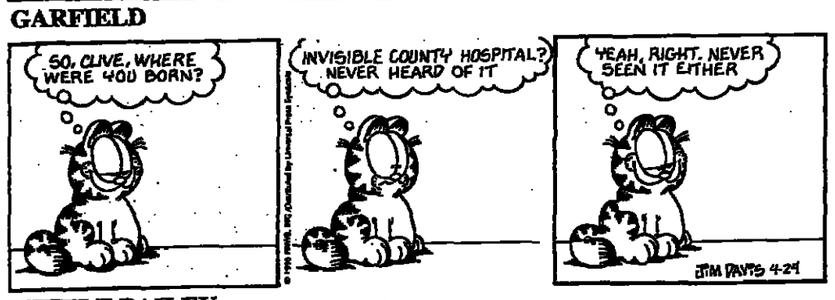
PEANUTS

GARFIELD

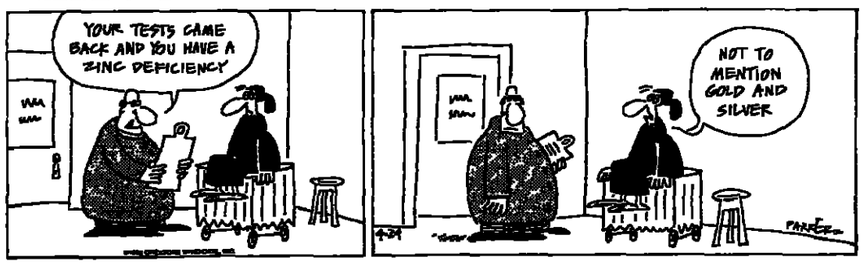


BEETLE BAILEY

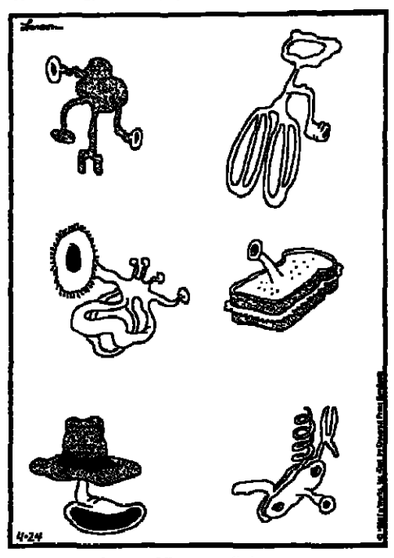
BLONDIE

CALVIN AND HOBBES

WIZARD of ID



THE FAR SIDE



Some of the non-vital organs

DOONESBURY

OBSERVER

Teach Your Children

By Russell Baker

WASHINGTON — The death last week of Jessica Dubroff, the 7-year-old flier, produced a spate of un-American criticism of parents who push their children too hard too soon. This outburst resulted not from a sudden public onset of good sense, but only because of the melodramatic way Jessica died.

After the fatal crash it suddenly became obvious, even to parents who are maniacal about driving their children to succeed, that Jessica's situation had been surreal all along. Until she crashed, our perceptions were not so keen.

A little girl out to break a bizarre record by becoming the youngest human ever to fly across the continent was treated as a cute and blessedly light news feature with which to offset the hard stuff about graves in Bosnia and political raids on the Constitution.

□

If anybody in press, television or pulpit thought before Jessica's death that there was something unhealthy about what Father and Mother were up to with their 7-year-old, I missed it.

Precisely because it was so nutty, it was easy after the fact to blame her parents. And yet, what could be more American than loving parents leaning on their children to grow up and set the world on fire? Those parents who would kill to have their toddlers admitted to New York's most celebrated private schools — are they really so superior to Jessica's with their silly ambition for their daughter to excel?

And what is the point of preparing those kiddies to join the set-the-world-on-fire crowd? It is to get them admitted to Harvard, Yale, Princeton and other such temples of learning, whence they will go forth and actually, in many cases, set the world on fire.

I mean no disrespect for good education, but many a child would be happier for having been spared parental insistence on acquiring it.

□

Many a child who might have made an excellent cobbler or police sergeant or vegetable manager at a supermarket is instead forced into high-toned work at which he acquires an elegant title, a corner office and magnificent psychiatrists' bills.

I speak, of course, of those grown-up kiddies — and they must be legion — who agree to excel at something in which they are not much interested, because their parents will feel good about having begot such a famous daughter or son.

Our society does not abuse these parents for having forced their children from the cradle to work at becoming big shots. To the contrary, parents are judged commendable for having leaned on their progeny to make something of themselves. It is hard for children to save their own identities from hard-driving parents determined to make their children be what the parents want them to be.

□

After an event as macabre as the death of Jessica Dubroff it is easy to deplore the parental impulse to force children to do their utmost to get to the top. And yet, what could be more American? The parent who lets the children go their own way is a parent who is a disgrace to American parenthood.

New York Times Service

100 Years Later, Verlaine Still Gets No Respect

By Katherine Knorr
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — 1996 is the 100th anniversary of the death of the poet Paul Verlaine, and it's vaguely sad, in this day of multimedia parties for all sorts of nobodies, to see that he's not getting the same radical chic treatment that went to his onetime friend, Arthur Rimbaud, on the same occasion in 1991. Lookism maybe? Verlaine was the ugly one.

He was also the one who stayed behind. If Verlaine's reputation is inseparable from his fling with Rimbaud, that nevertheless lasted less than four years, a good part of which Verlaine spent behind bars. Still, those were the years that sealed his fate: By repeatedly insulting and beating his young wife and throwing dishes and furniture at his in-laws, he lost his chance for a bourgeois life that he would always half regret.

It is one of the difficulties of dealing with this immensely talented man that he was all his life a disputatious child, irresponsible, drunk and prodigiously self-righteous about it all. It's amazing that he got away with all that he did, and that his mother remained so devoted to him. He never understood why he'd lost his wife and child, and he went on writing to her and for her (while characteristically insulting her grossly at the same time), as if somehow his demented behavior could be erased.

Verlaine was born in Metz in 1844. His father was a military man, his mother extraordinarily pleased to bring a child into the world at last. As retold by Alain Buisine in his marvelously entertaining "Verlaine: Histoire d'un corps" (Verlaine: the Story of a Body), she kept the four fetuses she had miscarried in jars, right there in the room where Paul was born.

The family moved to Paris in 1851, the year of the coup by the future Napoleon III — to the Batignolles quarter of the 17th arrondissement, which he would describe often and spitefully in short stories and memoirs.

Verlaine was an uneven student, by turns brilliant and indifferent, and eventually went off to study law. As for other bad boy poets (like the Baudelaire he so admired), higher studies turned out to be a convenient excuse for hanging out in various dives. His kindly parents eventually got him municipal desk work, which he didn't take too seriously, though he didn't mind the income.

Collection Violet

Paul Verlaine at a Paris café: After 1883 his downward spiral became vertiginous.

And then came the fork in Verlaine's life. The bourgeois young man became engaged to the half-sister of one of his friends, Mathilde Mauté. Her parents weren't wild about the match, but they gave in, much to their chagrin.

The poet at the same time was heading for alcoholic oblivion, living the café life with a group of friends who would eventually become Le Parnasse. Then in August of 1871 came a letter from a young man resident in Charleville, in the Ardennes. When Rimbaud showed up in Paris, it was love and hate at first sight.

Because the affair has become a staple of rock legend ("Situations have all been sad/ Relationships have all been bad/Kind of like Verlaine's and Rimbaud's," was Dylan's take), it is easy to forget that there were genuine problems other than the disapproval of bourgeois society.

Rimbaud was a minor, and essentially a runaway. He had no money, and Verlaine not much, which meant they had to depend on the generosity of Verlaine's mother. Rimbaud quickly became disillusioned with Verlaine's lack of backbone, his wily and indolent cynicism. Rimbaud, as he would prove later, was a hard, driven young man with a kind of rough-hewn morality that clashed with Verlaine's situational ethics.

He was also quite frightened when Verlaine — lacking the nerve to commit suicide after boring all his friends with melodramatic threats — shot him in the arm instead.

That same rough morality, tied to the weird intellectual honesty that would cause him to turn his back on poetry, led Rimbaud to go ballistic when Verlaine, newly released from his Belgian prison, started giving him the word of the Lord. (It was characteristic of Verlaine that he needed to sin, but he also needed to confess. Sometimes that was done to priests, and sometimes to his readers, but never too honestly.)

Verlaine robbed another cradle some years later, when he was a teacher in the countryside near Reims. He got his protégé, Lucien Létinois, work in England, then persuaded his mother to buy a farm where Verlaine and Létinois were to live the good life. The farm went bankrupt and Lucien died of typhoid fever in 1883.

After that, the downward spiral became vertiginous. His mother stuck with him, despite his violence against her. When she died, there remained a half-life of rough trade, and eventually a kind of domestic set-up with one, and then another, female prostitute. They fought over him, or his few sous, right up to his funeral, when one tried to bar the other and it turned into black comedy at what was a celebrity occasion, in the church of Saint-Etienne-du-Mont, with Gabriel Fauré at the organ.

If Rimbaud turned his back on writing and disappeared into colonial trading, Verlaine turned back to writing prose to rehash the details of his wasted life.

The years with Rimbaud had produced sometimes brilliant and very funny descriptions of London, including unprintable descriptions of public toilets, all part of Verlaine's perpetually adolescent scatology.

During the last 10 years of his life, when he was quite famous, he wrote various memoirs not only to earn a little money (what he didn't drink was usually stolen from him by the prostitutes he more or less lived with), but also to rewrite the story his way. There were the contradictory descriptions of his marriage, of his sublime "friendship" with Rimbaud, of his activities during the Commune. He had by this time become a habitué of prisons and hospitals, and wrote much of his last works in the relative comfort of hospital beds. (The hospital stays provided the poor man's version of the Betty Ford clinic).

These are genuinely readable, sardonic views of self-destructive hell, with Verlaine's rich talent for detail and his self-deprecating and at the same time absurdly proud humor. When he was lucid, he was capable of beautiful prose, but he wasn't lucid very often.

Many people tried to help. He was invited to lecture in England and Holland, where he misbehaved, of course. The aristocratic poet Robert de Montesquiou supported him at times. But it was all too late; Verlaine was in a suicidal frenzy, self-deceiving to the end.

He actually thought for a while that he could get himself elected to the Académie française, despite his reputation. He didn't mean it as the provocation of a decadent poet; he really believed he belonged there. Although he steeped himself at various times in the worst kind of religiosity, he actually felt no shame. He got no respect, but he always believed it was his due, and went to his grave blaming the other guy.

POSTCARD

The Nostalgic and Curious Visit Jackie's 'Museum'

By Paula Span
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — They've been waiting in line on the sidewalk outside Sotheby's, the first groups arriving on Friday morning, others coming through the weekend, the last due at noon Tuesday. They're holding the tickets they won by lottery, printed on cream-colored cardboard and specifying the exact time they may enter to spend one hour — no longer, please — looking over the possessions of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Starting Tuesday night, everything — artwork, furniture, books, knickknacks and one enormous diamond ring — was going on the block. Nearly 2,000 people were to attend the first session, with others participating from satellite galleries in Los Angeles and Chicago; absentee bids, still being faxed and phoned in, numbered more than 65,000.

Tuesday night through Friday, over nine auction sessions, Sotheby's second floor will be a salesroom. But for the past few days it has been more of a museum, or perhaps a shrine. Thirty thousand people have availed themselves of the opportunity — which they never had while Onassis lived and now will never have again — to see something of how she lived. Even a phoned-in bomb threat on the first day, causing an hourlong evacuation, barely slowed the stream of visitors.

With the help of an outside design consultant (unidentified, but the focus of much speculation), Sotheby's staffers carefully arranged Onassis's possessions in groups: formal "rooms" of her French and American furniture, rustic odds and ends from country houses. White House memorabilia, long shelves of books, display cases of china and silver, jewels mounted against black velvet. Someone has thoughtfully placed vases of fresh flowers on end tables and desktops. Larger-than-life photos of Onassis hang everywhere. "Graceland on York Avenue," one reporter quipped.

Those in line — mostly women, mostly middle-aged — sounded less cynical. True, there were some pros in the crowd: furniture and antiques dealers, two Chicago jewelry collectors who'd gotten up at 3 A.M. to fly in for the day, a woman from the Upper West Side who's amassed 60 pairs of aesthetically or historically notable sunglasses and was disappointed to learn that none of Onassis's were for sale. But most people said they'd come because they felt some sort of connection — to history, to the Kennedys, to her.

WEATHER

Europe

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Algarve	17/62	10/50 c	19/66	12/53 pc
Amsterdam	14/57	9/48 r	11/52	7/44 r
Athens	10/50	2/35 sh	14/57	3/37 c
Athens	18/64	11/52 pc	21/70	13/55 pc
Barcelona	21/70	11/52 s	21/70	12/53 pc
Belgrade	24/75	12/53 pc	24/75	13/55 c
Berlin	23/73	14/57 pc	19/66	6/43 pc
Brussels	17/62	8/43 r	13/55	5/41 r
Budapest	23/73	12/53 pc	23/73	13/55 t
Copenhagen	19/66	13/55 pc	14/57	4/39 pc
Costa Del Sol	21/70	12/53 s	21/70	13/55 pc
Dublin	12/53	7/44 c	11/52	4/39 c
Edinburgh	11/52	8/46 r	11/52	5/41 r
Florence	22/71	14/57 r	18/64	13/55 r
Frankfurt	24/75	14/57 pc	19/66	7/44 pc
Geneva	18/61	9/48 r	18/64	8/46 c
Helsinki	8/46	3/37 r	9/48	2/35 pc
Istanbul	14/57	8/46 pc	18/64	9/48 pc
Las Palmas	19/66	17/62 pc	23/73	17/62 pc
Lisbon	18/61	11/52 c	17/62	11/52 pc
London	14/57	7/44 r	12/53	6/43 r
Madrid	17/62	6/43 c	19/66	8/43 pc
Milan	20/68	15/59 r	21/70	13/55 r
Moscow	17/62	10/50 pc	13/55	6/43 sh
Munich	22/71	12/53 c	17/62	7/44 c
Nice	19/66	12/53 r	16/64	13/55 sh
Oslo	16/61	9/48 t	10/50	4/39 r
Palma de Mallorca	19/66	14/57 pc	18/64	12/53 pc
Paris	18/61	7/44 t	14/57	8/43 c
Prague	24/75	13/55 pc	20/68	8/46 pc
Reykjavik	7/44	3/37 pc	9/43	2/35 r
Rome	23/73	13/55 c	22/71	13/55 r
St. Petersburg	11/52	2/35 r	13/55	1/34 pc
Stockholm	12/53	7/44 r	11/52	2/35 t
Strasbourg	21/70	11/52 t	19/66	7/44 c
Tallinn	9/48	4/39 sh	12/53	5/41 c
Venice	21/70	14/57 pc	19/66	13/55 sh
Vienna	22/71	12/53 pc	19/66	11/52 r
Warsaw	25/77	11/52 s	22/73	9/48 r
Zurich	21/70	13/55 c	19/66	9/48 c

Oceania

Auckland	21/70	12/53 pc	21/70	14/57 s
Sydney	24/75	17/62 pc	24/75	17/62 pc

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Jetstream · Unseasonably Cold · Unseasonably Hot · Heavy Rain · Heavy Snow

North America
Warming up again later this week in New York City and Washington, D.C.; showers and thunder-storms possible late Friday and Saturday. Toronto and Chicago will have some showers and storms Thursday into Friday. Rain will dampen Seattle and Portland on Friday.

Europe
Dry weather will return to London later in the week and mainly dry weather is expected in Paris. A few showers will dampen Germany Thursday into Friday. Wet weather will depart Spain and Portugal and head for Italy. A warming trend is slated for Greece and Turkey.

Asia
Dry and turning warm at the end of the week in Tokyo and Seoul. Very warm in Beijing with the chance for a thunderstorm or two. Muggy in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Taiwan with a stray thundershower possible. Hot and humid in Singapore and Bangkok with hit-or-miss thunderstorms.

Middle East

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Abu Dhabi	37/98	22/73 s	37/98	25/77 s
Beirut	18/61	12/53 pc	18/64	12/53 c
Cairo	18/64	7/44 pc	21/70	8/46 pc
Damascus	15/59	3/37 c	14/57	2/35 c
Jerusalem	14/57	8/46 pc	18/61	8/46 pc
Luxor	27/80	5/41 s	31/88	11/52 s
Riyadh	40/104	22/71 s	39/102	22/71 pc

Africa

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Algiers	19/66	17/62 sh	19/66	14/57 sh
Cape Town	22/71	12/53 s	25/77	12/53 pc
Casablanca	19/66	9/48 pc	18/64	11/52 c
Harare	17/62	11/52 t	21/70	9/48 pc
Lagos	33/93	25/79 pc	32/89	25/79 pc
Nairobi	22/71	12/53 c	23/73	13/55 c
Tunis	23/73	18/61 c	23/73	17/62 t

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, Hot, W-Weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1996

Asia

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Bangkok	33/91	24/75 pc	34/93	26/79 pc
Beijing	32/89	14/57 s	28/79	10/50 s
Hong Kong	24/75	18/64 pc	24/75	19/66 c
Manila	32/89	23/73 pc	32/89	23/73 pc
New Delhi	39/100	27/80 pc	41/105	29/79 s
Seoul	22/71	7/44 s	22/71	9/48 s
Shanghai	21/70	9/48 s	22/71	12/53 s
Singapore	32/89	24/75 t	32/89	24/75 pc
Taipei	30/86	23/73 c	25/78	16/59 pc
Tokyo	16/61	7/44 pc	20/68	9/48 s

Latin America

Buenos Aires	22/71	17/62 r	22/71	13/55 pc
Caracas	29/84	19/66 pc	31/88	20/68 pc
Lima	23/73	17/62 s	24/75	19/66 pc
Mexico City	24/75	12/53 pc	24/75	11/52 pc
Rio de Janeiro	27/80	20/68 pc	28/82	22/71 s
Santiago	19/66	3/37 pc	19/66	4/39 s

North America

Anchorage	9/48	3/37 sh	9/48	0/32 pc
Atlanta	20/68	9/48 sh	23/73	12/53 pc
Boston	21/70	10/50 r	15/59	5/41 c
Chicago	11/52	3/37 pc	15/59	6/43 s
Denver	22/71	7/44 pc	28/82	7/44 s
Detroit	11/52	1/34 pc	13/55	4/39 pc
Honolulu	32/89	21/70 pc	29/84	22/71 pc
Houston	29/79	12/53 pc	25/77	14/57 pc
Los Angeles	29/84	14/57 s	30/86	16/61 s
Miami	29/84	21/70 s	29/84	22/71 pc
Minneapolis	13/55	2/35 s	15/59	6/43 s
Montreal	18/61	11/52 r	15/59	3/37 c
Nassau	29/82	22/71 pc	29/84	22/71 pc
New York	21/70	8/46 t	18/61	7/44 pc
Phoenix	37/99	20/68 s	39/100	21/70 s
San Fran.	21/70	13/55 pc	22/71	11/52 pc
Seattle	14/57	9/48 r	13/55	7/44 r
Toronto	5/41	-1/31 c	13/55	7/44 pc
Vancouver	14/57	9/48 r	14/57	7/44 sh
Washington	23/73	7/44 t	19/66	8/46 pc

PEOPLE

BRITAIN'S Princess Diana was criticized and accused of publicity-seeking after she attended a televised three-hour heart operation on an African boy. Diana donned a surgical gown and mask to watch the transplant pioneer Sir Magdi Yacoub operate on a 7-year-old boy from Cameroon suffering from a hole in the heart. Her appearance, in full makeup and earrings, was filmed by Sky Television and won headline coverage in the British press. Nurses expressed surprise that she had been allowed to stand next to the surgeons without following usual medical practice under which makeup and jewelry is removed and hair firmly tucked away. **Harold Brookes-Baker**, editor of a leading guide to the British aristocracy, said: "The great question is will there be a monarchy left by the time she gets through with her publicity campaign." The Archdeacon of York, **George Austin**, said he hoped he would not have to face such an audience if he had major surgery. "I think people should carry cards saying they do not wish to be visited by this woman," he told the Mirror.

□

Bill Cosby and **Phylicia Rashad** are reuniting as television husband and wife in a new sitcom. Rashad, who played Cosby's wife on the long-running NBC hit "The Cosby Show," will also play his wife in the new CBS series, loosely based on the British comedy "One Foot in the Grave." The producers also have cast **Madeline Kahn** for the series.

□

An angry **Dolly Parton** made no apologies to fans who complained they got too much **Dom DeLuise** and **Phyllis Diller** and not enough Dolly in a series of four benefit concerts. "If you disagree with me and want to get your money back, then leave right now," Parton told 1,400 members of her Dollywood Ambassadors fan club in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Some fans, who paid $800 or more for tickets, did walk out, but Dollywood officials said fewer than 10 tickets were returned. Parton said she didn't have time to put together a full show because of other obligations.

□

The Russian conductor **Yakov Kreizberg** had to conduct with his eyebrows and facial expressions when his left arm froze after he slipped a disk. "At one point I could not move the left side of my body at all, not even the shoulder," said the 36-year-old principal conductor of Britain's Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. "But it is the orchestra who are the stars, not me," he told The Times after conducting Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique" in Cambridge.

Agence France-Presse

STILL ROCKIN' — Roger Daltrey, left, and Pete Townshend have announced that they and Bob Dylan will headline a concert June 29 in London's Hyde Park.

□

Alexander Liberman, former editorial director of Condé Nast and a painter, sculptor and photographer, will receive the National Arts Club's Gold Medal Award for Photography on Wednesday at a black-tie dinner at the club. But don't try to tell Liberman that photography is a lofty form of art comparable to painting or sculpture. "I do have my opinion of the limitations of photography," he said. "For me photography is a wonderful recorder of things you want your memory to retain. But you can't compare it to even a stroke by Picasso."

□

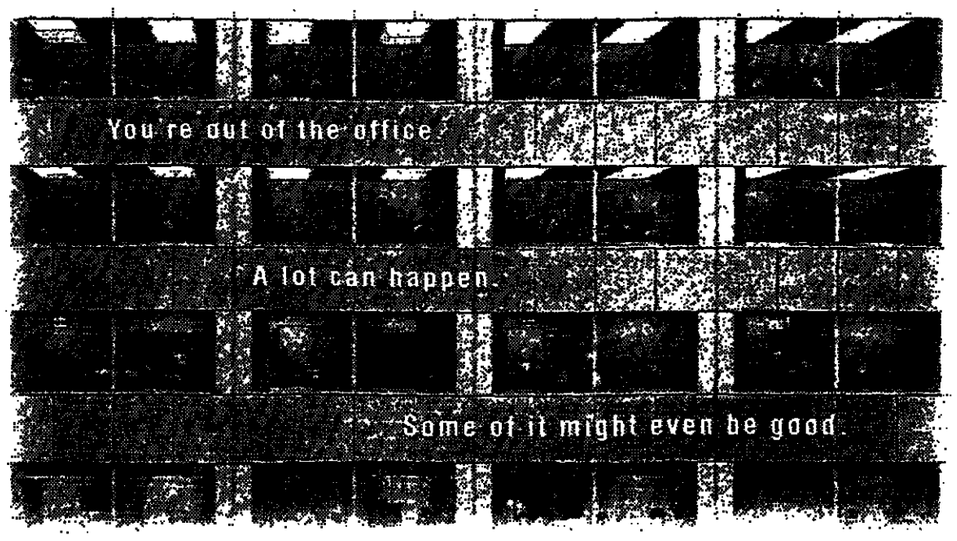
Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden will put aside her tiara for a while and dawn military fatigues next year when she begins her military training, according to press reports. The 18-year-old princess, who will enroll in college this year, will begin a two-year military service in 1997, although the royal palace has so far only confirmed that she will undergo some form of military education. Some press reports said Victoria wanted to undergo the same training as her father, who was educated in all three branches of the armed services and reached the rank of second lieutenant. But a palace spokesman said a two-year stint was "not likely."

□

Charles K. Kao of the United States, a pioneer in optical fiber communications, and **Masao Ito**, a Japanese expert on the workings of the brain, were named winners of the 1996 Japan Prize. The award includes a cash prize of $467,000 for each winner.

□

The actress **Stefanie Powers** received a public apology and substantial libel damages Tuesday over claims by a former assistant published in The Sun, Britain's largest-circulation tabloid. The publisher agreed to pay substantial undisclosed damages, which media reports put at £60,000 (about $90,000), plus court costs. The actress also sued the Daily Mail, another tabloid, over the same matter. The paper settled last year, making a substantial payment to Powers along with an apology.



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Croatia◆	99-385-0111
Czech Republic*	00-42-000-101
Denmark	8001-0010
Finland*	9800-100-10
France	19-0011
Germany	0130-0010
Greece*	00-800-1311
Hungary*	000800-01111
Iceland*	800 9907
Ireland	1-800-550-000
Italy*	172-1011
Lithuania◆	80196
Luxembourg	0-800-0111
Macedonia, F.Y.R.*†††	99-800-4288
Monaco*	19-0011
Netherlands*	06-022-9111
Norway	800-190-11
Poland†*	80-0-800-111-1111
Portugal†	05017-1-288
Romania*	01-800-4288
Russia*† (Moscow)	155-5042
Slovak Rep.*†	00-42-800-101
Spain◆	900-99-00-11
Sweden	020-795-611
Switzerland*	0-800-550011
Turkey*	00-800-12277
Ukraine†	810-160-11
United Kingdom	0500-89-0011
	0500-89-0011

MIDDLE EAST

Bahrain ■	800-001
Cyprus* ■	080-90010
Egypt* (Cairo)†	510-0200
Israel	177-100-2727
Jordan ■	18 800 800
Kuwait ■	800-288
Lebanon (Beirut)*†† ■	426-801
Qatar ■	0800-011-77
Saudi Arabia ■	1-800-10
Syria	0-801
U. Arab Emirates* ■	800-121

AFRICA

Gabon*	080-001
Gambia*	00111
Ghana	0191
Ivory Coast*	00-111-11
Kenya†	0800-10
Liberia	797-797
Morocco ■	002-11-0011
Sierra Leone	1100
South Africa	0-800-99-0123
Zambia◆	00-899
Zimbabwe†	110-899

AMERICAS

Argentina◆	001-800-200-1111
Bolivia*	0-800-1112
Brazil	000-8010
Canada ■	1-800-225-5288
Chile	800-800-311
Colombia	980-11-0010
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El Salvador*††	800-1785
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